THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • THURSDAY • JULY 22, 2021 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

Great Britain players take the knee before the match against Chile on Wednesday as preliminary events begin in Tokyo | AFP

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TOKYO 2020

WOMEN'S SKEET WORLD NO. 1 COVID POSITIVE, OUT OF OLY

'Devastated' GB athlete, Amber Hill withdraws days before Games, three others, too, sidelined after contracting virus

6 POLES SENT BACK HOME; SWEDEN STUN U.S.

Six Polish swimmers had to be sent back home after a clerical error that left the contingent stunned. An administrative error by the Polish Swimming Federation saw them send 23 athletes instead of 17. Meanwhile, Sweden handed the US women's team, the defending Olympic and world champion, a 3-0 defeat on the first day of the preliminary rounds

TEAMS KNEEL IN FIGHT FOR EQUALITY

- Multiple teams interlocked arms or took the knee as they continue their fight for equality. The IOC, which had a blanket ban on protests, has allowed athletes to 'protest' with 'restrictions'
- One more Czech athlete, Pavel Sirucek, tested positive in the Games Village. He's the third member of the delegation | P13

2032

BRISBANE WILL BE THE HOST OF THE 2032 SUMMER GAMES

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

One more seer in solidarity, BSY keeps pensive silence

Chief Minister appeals to his supporters not to indulge in protest

ANUSHA RAVI @ Bengaluru

"PRIME Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president JP Nadda have an immense special concern for me. Nobody has been given the opportunity to work as Chief Minister after the age of 75, but I have been extended that courtesy," Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa was quoted as saying by Siddalinga Swamy, head seer of the all-important Siddaganga Mutt. The seer was talking to the media after his meeting with Yediyurappa on Wednesday, the second consecutive day of pontiffs showing solidarity with Yediyurappa, calling on him at his official residence amid the buzz of leadership change.

While the chief minister chose to remain mum on seers meeting him back to back, Siddalinga Swamy said the delegation of various religious chiefs insisted that Yediyurappa should continue as chief minister for the rest of his term. "He did not say anything about his resignation, but we insisted that he continue in the post. He has earned the love of people cutting across communities. He told us that he will work tirelessly for the party until his last breath," the seer said.

On Tuesday, some 20 seers from various mutts met Yediyurappa and on Wednesday, the number was over 50. Prominent chiefs of religious institutions, like Murugha Mutt's Sri Shivamurthy Sharanaru, Madara Channayya Mutt seer Sri Basavamurthy Madara Channayya Swamy, Rambhapuri Peetha seer Sri Prasanna Renuka Veerasomeshwar Shivacharya Swami and Siddalinga Swamy, have come out in support of Yediyurappa. Others like Kolada Mutt seer Shanthaveera Swami and Lingayat Panchamasali Peetha Jayamruthyunjaya Swamy have asked for someone from within the community to replace Yediyurappa. P4

Siddalinga Swamy of Siddaganga Mutt, along with other seers, at a meeting with Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa in Bengaluru on Wednesday | VINOD KUMAR T

CM's ANNIVERSARY LUNCH CANCELLED

Amidst the buzz surrounding CM Yediyurappa being asked to step down, a lunch meeting scheduled with legislators at a Bengaluru hotel, to mark his two years in office, has been cancelled. However, when asked, BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel said he was unaware of the reason behind the cancellation. P4

THOSE WHO QUIT CONG, JDS WARY

At a time when there is confusion in the state over leadership change, political circles are abuzz with speculation about the fate of former Congress and JDS legislators who joined the BJP to help it form the government in 2019. A senior BJP leader, however, said their interests will be protected. P4

Inter-ministerial Israeli panel to probe Pegasus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

WITH the global Pegasus snooping scandal snowballing, Israel is learnt to have set up a senior inter-ministerial team to examine allegations of its abuse, since the spyware belongs to an Israeli firm, the NSO Group.

Parallelly, India's Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Technology led by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor is expected to question top government officials on who ordered the snooping, when it meets next Wednesday, said sources.

Israel's National Security Council (NSC) has been tasked to head the Pegasus probe team. Interestingly, it is the NSC that oversees NSO exports. For its part, the NSO Group said it will thoroughly investigate any credible proof of misuse of its technologies and "will shut down the system where necessary".

The Israeli action appears to be part of its attempts to avert diplomatic flare-ups after suspected abuse of Pegasus was found in France, Mexico, India, Morocco and Iraq. Prominent among the spyware's targets were 10 prime ministers, three presidents and a king.

Since NSO claims it sells only to vetted governments, the needle of suspicion for the snoopgate started pointing towards the ruling dispensations. While Pegasus is meant to help thwart threats to national security, its possible use against political opponents to destabilise governments or win elections indicated its abuse.

Back home, the Tharoor-led parliamentary panel has summoned senior officials from the Ministry of Electronics, Information and Technology and the Ministry of Home Affairs to its meeting on July 28. The agenda is citizens' data security and privacy, according to a notification from the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

On Wednesday, the global media consortium that is doing the spyware expose, added the names of officials of farm giant Monsanto and other anti-CAA activists as potential targets of Pegasus. Six mobile numbers of Monsanto were added to the list in 2018 when it came under the radar for allegedly selling genetically modified seeds. Also, Samujjal Bhattacharjee, AASU member who was at the forefront of the anti-CAA protests in Assam, was on the list along with ULFA's Anup Chetia.

PAGE 14

I propose Sharadji (Sharad Pawar) and Chidambaramji (P Chidambaram) to call a meeting of Opposition leaders. I will act as a worker and follow the instructions given by the leaders of the alliance
Mamata Banerjee

MAMATA ENTERS NATIONAL RING

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata/New Delhi

GIVING a call to uproot the BJP in the 2024 general elections, Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday urged the Opposition to keep aside all other interests and unite against the Modi government, which she alleged wants to 'turn India into a surveillance state'.

Representatives of nine Opposition parties attended the live screening of her speech at Constitution Club in Delhi. They included Sharad Pawar and Supriya Sule (both NCP), P Chidambaram and Digvijaya Singh (both Cong), Ram Gopal Yadav and Jaya Bachchan (both SP), Tiruchi Siva (DMK), Dr Keshava Rao (TRS), Sanjay Singh (AAP), Manoj Jha (RJD), Priyanka Chaturvedi (Shiv Sena) and Sardar Balwinder Singh Bhunder (Shiromani Akali Dal).

Taking her *Khela Hobe* pitch to the national stage, she said *Khela* (game) will happen in all other states in the 2024 elections until the BJP-led government is derailed from the Centre. She requested all non-BJP parties to start planning from now as only two-and-a-half-years is left. The call for Opposition unity comes ahead of her scheduled four-day visit to Delhi starting July 25.

Buoyed by the massive Bengal victory, the Trinamool for the first time organised the screening of Mamata's virtual address in Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and other states, showcasing her as an anti-BJP leadership face. Underlining the national emphasis of her speech, Mamata spoke for 45 minutes in Bengali, Hindi, and English.

Referring to her party's stupendous victory in the 2021 Assembly elections, Mamata said: "The game is not over yet. The game will continue until the BJP is uprooted from the Centre."

Aiming to unite all oppositions under one umbrella, Mamata said, "We have no time to waste... Forget your all-other interests. Now we should focus on one interest, which is saving the country. If we form an alliance shortly before polls, it may not work. I will be in Delhi shortly. I propose Sharadji and Chidambaramji to call a meeting of Opposition leaders. I will act as a worker and follow the instructions given by the leaders of the alliance."

Interestingly, she did not urge the Gandhi family to initiate Opposition unity. Her call is her first move to venture into national politics ahead of the 2024 elections.

MORE ON: P9

Crucial sero-survey data in cold storage, experts divided over analysis

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

WHILE Karnataka grapples with the fear of an anticipated third wave of Covid-19, the State Government's most important report on serosurveillance data — which helps the state predict the impact of the third wave — is lying in cold storage. The reasons, according to sources, is that the seroprevalence in Karnataka is as low as 14 per cent, which is way lower than the first serosurveillance, which showed the seroprevalence at 27 per cent.

"The survey, which started towards January-end, was completed by March and analysed by April. They realised that seroprevalence in the state was less than what it was in the earlier survey. A sub-survey in May has also been analysed and the findings submitted to the government," a senior doctor, who is part of the expert committee set up by the government to manage Covid-19, said.

A health worker collects swab samples of a passenger at Majestic bus stand in Bengaluru on Wednesday | SHRIRAM BN

Karnataka's sero-survey data actually goes against the ICMR theory that states are showing good seroprevalence. This could be one of the reasons the results of the survey have not yet been announced, the senior doctor said.

However, another expert, who requested anonymity, said the report submitted to the State Government has added the findings of the two seroprevalence surveys to show an increase in presence of antibodies among a good section of the population in Karnataka.

CONTINUED ON: P3

Afghan man with fake ID caught working at shipyard

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

IN a major security lapse, an Afghan national managed to work in the Cochin Shipyard (CSL) for more than a year using a fake identification document that showed him an Indian.

Idgul, alias Abbas Khan, 24, had been working in the shipyard under a sub-contractor since 2020. He had gone absconding after he suspected his real identity was exposed. A special team of Kerala police nabbed him from Kolkata and produced before court, which remanded in judicial custody on Tuesday.

Ernakulam South Police Inspector M S Faisal said the accused claimed to be from Assam but was in possession of an Afghan passport. "He had been absconding for the past few days. We traced his mobile location and nabbed him from Kolkata," the officer said, adding his father Barath Khan was suspected to be an Afghan citizen, while his mother Dalero Begum hailed from Assam.

According to preliminary probe, Khan came to India in 2018 on a medical visa. Later, he forged his identity documents to reach Kochi and secure a job under a sub-contractor in Cochin Shipyard. Khan came to Kochi because a few of his relatives from Assam were already working in the shipyard under the sub-contractor.

There are also rumours that he had some issues with his cousins and it was one of them who leaked his real identity to the shipyard security.

A CSL spokesperson said one of the workmen of a sub-contractor was known by a different name than that was submitted in his documents. During a re-verification of the documents by the shipyard security, it was found that he had absconded. The matter was immediately reported to the police, the spokesperson added.

Eid comes to border villages after 3 yrs

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

WHEN one thought the effects of global warming and climate change would be apparent decades later, there has been increasing evidence of environment-related catastrophes occurring across the globe in our lifetime. In recent days, Germany has faced flash foods, stunning scientists, Central China is in the midst of unprecedented rain and flooding, killing 25 and affecting over a million people, and on Tuesday, New Yorkers woke up to a haze as forest fires have been raging in western parts of the US.

Muslims offer prayers on the occasion of Bakrid at Quba Masjid in Kalasipalya, in Bengaluru on Wednesday | SHRIRAM BN

The situation in different parts of India is no different. But DB Kuppe and Machur -- villages along the Karnataka-Kerala border -- had a pleasant respite, in the midst of the various climatic catastrophes seen around the world. After a gap of three years, the villagers, predominantly Muslim, could celebrate Bakrid because this year there was no flooding. Flash floods and heavy rain had prevented them from celebrating Eid the past three years.

On Wednesday, the villages were decked up and mosques wore a festive look, as the devotees offered prayers of gratitude for saving them from another flood and natural calamity. P7

EXPRESS READ

Over 8 lakh students scheduled to write SSLC exam on June 22

BENGALURU: More than 8.1 lakh students are scheduled to write their second SSLC board examination on July 22. The examination for the three language papers will be held together in a three-hour session, with 40 marks dedicated to each paper | P7

NATIONWIDE	JULY 20	JULY 21
Fresh cases	30,093	42,015
Recoveries	45,254	36,977
Deaths	374	3,998

KARNATAKA	JULY 20	JULY 21
Fresh cases	1,464	1,639
Recoveries	2,706	2,214
Deaths	29	36

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

July 20
31,79,469 doses

July 21
20,83,892 doses

TOTAL DOSES
41,76,56,752

Piramal
Little's Baby Wipes now at ₹99.*
Extra thick and extra moist baby wipes for extra care.
Aloe Vera
Jojoba Oil
Littles™
EXPERT BABY CARE SINCE 1980
1800-22-9898 | consumercare@piramal.com
72 N Wipes
Baby Wipes
Available at your nearest chemists and also at
Apollo | amazon.in | Flipkart | firstcry
*MRP ₹99.00 (inclusive of all taxes) for a net pack of 72 wipes.
BBDO INDIA

ALMANAC TODAY
• **Thursday :** 22/07/2021 • **Year:** Plava • **Ayana:** Dakshinayna
• **Ritu:** Greeshma • **Masa:** Ashada • **Paksha:** Shukla • **Tithi:** Thrayodashi 12.03 pm
• **Nakshatra:** Moola 3.57 pm • Moon in Makara Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm
• **Gulikakala:** 09:00 am to 10:30 am • **Yamaganda:** 03:00 am to 04:30 am

WEATHER
MIN 20°C | MAX 24°C
FORECAST
Light showers. Overcast

Sunrise	6.03 am
Sunset	6.49 pm
Moonrise	5.19 pm
Moonset	3.53 am

POURING IN CITY

A two-wheeler rider tries to protect himself from the rain that lashed the city on Wednesday | VINOD KUMAR T

Dim streetlights make women feel unsafe

Responding to tweet by Directorate of Urban Land Transport, some say public urination by men disgusts them

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

WOMEN in Bengaluru, replying to a tweet by the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) seeking their response to safety and public transport facilities in the city, said that they feel unsafe, even in residential areas, at night because of dim streetlights.

Some said they are disgusted with men urinating in public and it made them uncomfortable. Some sought better services in buses and Metro, especially when these transport facilities are crowded. Others admitted that their choice of profession and location of work depended on the availability of public and private transport services.

After the tweet by DULT on Tuesday morning, responses came in thick and fast. There were bouquets and brickbats too.

DULT had posted: "Since 56 per cent of DULT workforce is women, we have been discussing about women representation in workforce and how transport is a determinant solution for women to make work choices or simply even participate in a city." It ended seeking replies from women.

The Twitter post was to get the opinion of people to improve transport facilities and the city at large. It is a first step in seeking public opinion

V Manjula, DULT Commissioner

DULT Commissioner V Manjula told *The New Indian Express*, "The Twitter post was to get the opinion of people to improve transport facilities and the city at large. It is a first step in seeking public opinion. Gradually, we are also thinking of conducting a household survey."

DULT has set no time limit for the exercise, while experts at DULT said it was high time such a step was taken. "While everyone talks of gender equality, they should look around and understand the ground reality and see how many women are working with them. The condition of public transport, especially buses, is the most basic facility for women to commute. One needs a hard look at commercial spaces and roads to understand whether they are conducive for working women. The participation of women at workspaces is extremely low in our country. We are trying to gather data to know what are the facilities that exist, what is lacking and what needs to be done," an expert said.

Barricades for Metro work a danger to motorists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

WITH the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation starting preliminary work on the Outer Ring Road Line of the elevated Silk Board to KR Puram Line (Metro Phase 2A), barricades have sprung up at many spots along the route posing a threat to motorists.

An association representing companies along this stretch has cautioned that if reflectors are not provided on the barricades, they will be responsible for numerous accidents during nights.

BMRCL has barricaded the Outer Ring Road at many points

Piling work (soil testing), which BMRCL began on June 29, is on at a brisk pace at specific locations near Silk Board, Agara Junction, HSR Layout (near flyover), Iblur Junction, Bellandur (opposite Microsoft), Devarabeesanahalli and Mahadevapura (near BRTS lane), which are all fully barricaded.

"In addition to that, gas pipeline shifting work is being done at Kadubeesanahalli and 75 per cent of the work has been completed," said Pranesh R Kulkarni, traffic administrator at Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA). He manages the 25 traffic wardens provided by the association to regulate traffic along this congested stretch.

ORRCA consultant Krishna Kumar Gowda has appealed to BMRCL to ensure that the barricades are provided with reflectors. "This kind of barricading is completely new to ORR. It is absolutely crucial that their presence be highlighted properly. There is a tendency of motorists to ride fast at nights. If this is not given priority, accidents are bound to happen very soon," he noted.

Discussions are still on as to whether the bus lane and cycle Lane will permit other vehicles too, Gowda added.

IT SOLUTIONS

Bengaluru airport ties up with IBM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

TO TRANSFORM the travel experience of passengers at Kempegowda International Airport, its operator, Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL), on Wednesday announced a ten-year partnership with global technology company IBM and Kyndryl for IT solutions.

The tie-up will help create a new 'Airport in a Box' platform to transform end-to-end travel experience for passengers at Bengaluru airport.

The state-of-the-art platform IBM is developing to support BIAL's business growth will be enabled by a comprehensive set of technology and services, enabled by an open hybrid cloud approach and supported Red Hat Ansible Automation, an official release said.

Bengaluru airport, as one of the fastest-growing in the world, needed a nimble, scalable and cost-competitive technology and operations environment that can increase its agility and operational flexibility to handle future growth in passenger traffic, the release said.

IBM works with more than 150 airports globally.

EXPRESS READ

NASA's Swati Mohan to address US Consulate series

Bengaluru: The US Consulate General, Chennai, will begin its Diaspora Diplomacy series with a virtual conversation with Dr Swati Mohan, Guidance, Navigation, and Control Systems Engineering Group Supervisor at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), at 7 pm on July 28. The event will also be live-streamed on the US Consulate General Chennai's Facebook page. The second speaker will be Grammy-nominated Indian American singer Priya Darshini on August 18. On August 19, Priya and her team will lead a virtual workshop for emerging musicians. ENS

Railway Hospital gets ICU ward with ventilator beds

Bengaluru: In preparation for tackle the predicted Covid third wave, the railway hospital is now ready with an ICU ward equipped with ventilator beds. The ward has six hydraulic beds, two ventilators, two HFNO machines and one Bipap with central oxygen supply. There are also six multipara monitors, portable X-ray machine, ECG machine, ABG analyser, six Syringe pumps and two Infusion pumps. To ensure uninterrupted supply of oxygen to the ICU for both Covid and non-Covid patients, a facility for bottling of oxygen cylinders will come up in few days. ENS

Bust of Missile Man built from scrap new attraction at Yeshwanthpur rly stn

The bust of former President Dr A P J Abdul Kalam | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A golden hued bust of former President Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, installed beside the railway tracks at the platform six side of Yeshwanthpur railway station, has become the cynosure of all eyes as well as an inspiration for railway employees.

Engineers of the mechanical department of the Yeshwanthpur Coaching Depot worked for 45 days to transform 800 kg of scrap into the bust.

It was unveiled on Monday and made public on the Twitter handle of the coaching depot on Tuesday evening with the words -- a creative tribute to The Missile Man -- and instantly generated enthusiastic responses.

Set up on a specially created platform near the tracks, the enormous bust of the aerospace scientist is 7.8-feet high and can be viewed by passengers from trains departing from Yeshwanthpur. The depot, located near the Tumakuru side of the station, maintains an average of 200 coaches on a daily basis, including the new Vistadome coaches and those of Duronto and Sampark Kranti trains.

Vikas Gurwani, senior coaching depot officer, said, "Our depot, over two decades old, has a history of churning waste into art in the past too, and has already put in place the Kempe Gowda Heritage Garden, a statue of Swami Vivekananda, a 3D model of the 'Make In India' Lion and that of Three Musketeers. These are an offshoot of the Japanese 5S workplace philosophy that we follow here and aim to create a clean and visually appealing work environment." The bust has already generated much interest among passengers and staff, he added.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

22nd July: This week's planetary patterns are changeable, flexible and confused! Fortunately, astrology is all about finding the most helpful way forward, and the same astrological symbols could indicate a week which is inspired, optimistic and practical. It takes a conscious effort to avoid the worst and work for the best.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You've been sending out confusing signals lately and this is just the moment to show everybody you're not the meek little creature they thought you were. How they could have been so mistaken is another matter. Still, some people just can't control themselves.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
There's bound to be a series of secret comings and goings today, and you may hear some confidential news. However, you'll find it difficult to keep anything to yourself for long. Happily, a threatened financial loss should fail to materialise, much to your relief.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
The current planetary picture is throwing your financial situation into sharp relief, possibly in a manner which is not to your liking. If you play your cards right, gains are as likely as losses. It's all a matter of striking a sensible balance.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Tread warily if important issues are at stake career-wise, as colleagues could be in an unpredictable mood. Events at the end of the week could transform your feelings towards a particular person. And that will, in turn, open a window of opportunity elsewhere.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Have you considered the implications of current domestic aspirations, perhaps the chance that you could be about to move to bigger or more comfortable accommodation? Even if difficulties crop up in the meantime, you can expect the tide to turn in your favour before long.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
The planets are generally helpful but, if taking a trip today, be sure to check directions before leaving home. You're in an impulsive mood and even well-laid domestic plans will be affected by unexpected and dramatic developments - with startling results.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Today's planetary alignment continues the trend towards greater optimism just as you had begun to give up hope. Prosperous times are on the way, even if partners sometimes give the impression that they are not prepared to contribute to your joint future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
This week's planetary movements signify a positive turning-point in a series of changes, both personal and professional, that have been in the melting pot for some time. Expect dramatic events over the next fortnight - and over the next three months.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Now that people are recognising your finer qualities, you may be called upon to perform a charitable act. Confidential plans may be connected with overseas interests, and a legal hitch is likely. Events may, however, work in your favour, in spite of current indications.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Your personal economic climate takes an upward swing over the next few days, in spite of general unpromising conditions, but you should be wary of making any commitments you can't fulfil. At work, you may be responsible for newcomers, so treat less experienced people kindly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You're about to embark on a new cycle, one which will have critical implications for your financial situation. The current period could mark a significant point in a number of professional developments and close relationships. If you've been on an uphill struggle recently, the worst should be over by now.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
If you're looking for work or seeking promotion in your present job, then play your cards with confidence and care. There's much to be gained if you make the right moves. Look for ways to ease chores at home, for you weren't born to be a domestic drudge.

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

LOCKHORNS

"IT'S APPROPRIATE OUR FINANCES ARE ON A COMPUTER... THEY'RE MOSTLY ONES AND ZEROS ANYWAY."

DENNIS THE MENACE

"I'M SURE THIS DISH COULD FEED A CROWD." "BUT FIRST YOU GOTTA FIND A CROWD THAT WILL ACTUALLY EAT IT!"

SUDOKU

Evil: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

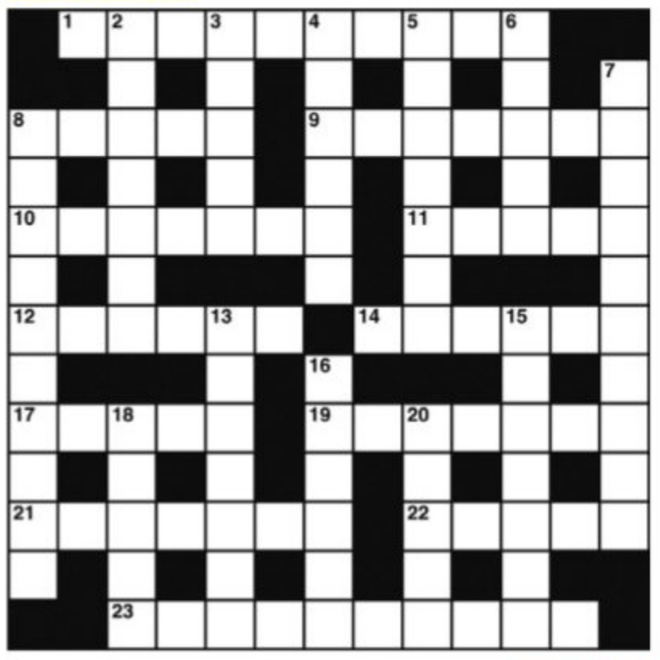
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

	4						3	
5		1		9		6		
					2	8	9	
		4			8			
1		2				4		5
			1			3		
	1	6	9					
		5		7		9		6
	3						4	

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

9	8	6	7	3	1	5	2	4
5	3	1	2	8	4	9	6	7
4	7	2	6	9	5	8	3	1
3	5	4	9	2	6	7	1	8
2	9	7	4	1	8	6	5	3
6	1	8	3	5	7	4	9	2
8	2	3	5	7	9	1	4	6
1	6	9	8	4	3	2	7	5
7	4	5	1	6	2	3	8	9

CROSS WORD



ACROSS
1 One of the fruits of advanced age? (10)
8 Stop using TV as a diversion (5)
9 It unfolds and gives way (7)
10 There are two points he can possibly raise (7)
11 Several or just one singer (5)
12 Remain when in trouble - these fly (6)
14 It's correctly seen as a privilege (6)
17 Malevolent character was in retreat (5)
19 Fever may produce f irst-class alarm (7)
21 Just the opposite of prosaic? (7)
22 Soak with exorbitant charge (5)
23 You can have it yet still be clothes mad (5,5)

DOWN
2 The cow's outside (7)
3 Put away in great enjoyment (5)
4 Carried round the island (6)
5 Uncertain creator who needs prompting to perform (7)
6 Potential enemy country (5)
7 Will it give a ghostly light? (6,4)
8 Boy going over an unusually arid place in Egypt (10)
13 Add to the general confusion (7)
15 Gems that may appear strange in a new setting (7)
16 Urges some simple alterations (6)
18 Very bright Roman figures (5)
20 I sell out of this thread (5)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across:
1 In time, 4 Albums, 9 Astride, 10 Patna, 11 Eases, 12 Service, 13 Countryside, 18 Tantrum, 20 Clove, 22 Robin, 23 Neighed, 24 Disown, 25 Snorer.

Down:
1 Isabel, 2 Totes, 3 Meissen, 5 Leper, 6 Untried, 7 Stayer, 8 Measurement, 14 Omnibus, 15 Section, 16 Stored, 17 Tender, 19 Renew, 21 Other.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RUGDO

CCIKL

GNNINI

TDOSED

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Sorry, we need to delay the show. Everyone needs to find shelter.
THE BAND'S OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE WAS READY TO START, BUT THE WEATHER WAS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

ANSWERS TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S: **Jumbles:**
SUNNY LAUGH DEFACE LOCKET
ANSWER: The young student looked up the word "list" in the dictionary which was – CLOSE AT HAND"

TRACKING COVID-19

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA

1,639 CASES REPORTED TODAY
1,464 CASES REPORTED YESTERDAY

TOTAL CASES AS ON DATE
TODAY 28,88,341
YESTERDAY 28,86,702

DEATHS
TODAY 36
YESTERDAY 29

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until July 21, 2021, a total of 28,88,341 cases have been reported in 1 year and 131 days....

DISCHARGES
TODAY 2,214
YESTERDAY 2,706

Active cases
TODAY 25,6445
YESTERDAY 26,256

POSITIVITY RATE
TODAY 7.74%
YESTERDAY 7.77%
The day positivity rate – 1.07% – is calculated as the number of patients testing positive out of 100 tests conducted only in a day.

MORTALITY RATE
TODAY 1.25%
YESTERDAY 1.25%

RECOVERY RATE
TODAY 97.85%
YESTERDAY 97.83%

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES
LAST 24 HOURS

419 BENGALURU URBAN

25 BENGALURU RURAL

Baglakot	3
Ballari	14
Belagavi	61
Bidar	0
Chamarajanagar	22
Chikkaballapur	15
Chikkamagaluru	92
Chitradurga	29
Dakshina Kannada	190
Davanagere	13
Dharwad	19
Gadag	1
Hassan	141
Haveri	2
Kalaburagi	2
Kodagu	63
Kolar	36
Koppal	5
Mandya	60
Mysuru	160
Raichur	1
Ramanagara	5
Shivamogga	37
Tumakuru	63
Udupi	104
Uttara Kannada	48
Vijayapura	10
Yadgir	0

ACTIVE CASES IN B'LURU URBAN FALL BELOW 10K

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE number of active Covid-19 infections in Bengaluru fell below the 10,000 mark on Wednesday at 9,495 patients, registering a 5.48 per cent drop from the previous day. There were 419 new cases in the city on Wednesday, taking the city's tally to 12,23,226. The recovery rate rose from 97.88 per cent to 97.93 per cent, with the total discharges in the state capital stood at 11,97,916. The mortality rate has remained at 1.29 per cent, with seven new deaths, taking the total number of fatalities to 15,814.

As per the state Covid-19 war room, the positivity rate of Bengaluru Urban district over the last seven days stands at 0.69 per cent.

The top 10 wards with the highest number of cases in the last 10 days are Kuvempu Nagar, Horamavu, Ramamurthy Nagar, Hoodi, Hagadur, Agara, Varthur, Bellandur, Uttarahalli and Begur. The wards reporting 0.1 cases in the last 10 days include Kadugondanahalli, Dharamaraya Swamy temple, Cottonpet, Hosahalli, Padarayanapura, Rayapura, Chalavadipalya, Azad Nagar, Gali Anjaneya Temple and Karisandra.

Meanwhile, a total of 102 wards reported 10 or less cases. There are 65 active micro containment zones in the city.

Meanwhile, Karnataka saw 1,639 new cases on Wednesday, taking the state tally to 28,88,341, while the positivity rate reduced from 7.77 per cent to 7.74 per cent.

The day also saw 2,214 discharges, which took the recovery rate from 97.83 per cent to 97.85 per cent. With 36 fresh deaths taking the fatalities to 36,262, the mortality rate remained at 1.25 percent. Active cases in the state dropped from 26,256 to 25,645.

Blood test can tell what type of hospitalisation patients need

CoviRisk-TNBK can assist clinicians to identify severity, prognosis within 6 hrs

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

THE peak of the second wave of Covid-19 had left patients grappling for ICU beds and ventilators and many even losing their lives due to their non-availability in hospitals. Now, a simple blood test may be able to identify the risk status of a hospitalised Covid-19 patient.

Metropolis Healthcare Ltd, a diagnostic service provider, has launched the blood test, called CoviRisk-TNBK (IVD approved flow cytometry-based lymphocyte subset assay, which estimates the T, B, and Natural Killer (NK) cells besides the CD4 and CD8 sub-populations of T-cells in peripheral blood) for cell-mediated response to SARS-CoV2 which can assist clinicians to identify the severity and prognosis within six hours.

Speaking to *TNIE*, Dr Sanjay Gohil, MD (Path) Consultant Pathologist, Metropolis Healthcare Ltd. said that in individuals with severe clinical courses, the disease often manifests in two waves. In the first, the patient has typical clinical symptoms of respiratory tract infection, and after 8-12 days, it starts with sudden worsening of respiratory status.

"Diffuse ground-glass opacities on CT, lymphopenia, elevated D-dimer levels and prolonged prothrombin time are common laboratory abnormalities in these critically-ill patients. Multiple studies and evidence suggest that Flow Cytometry data can be used to explore the role of T-cell sub-types as a surrogate biomarker to risk, disease severity and clinical outcomes for patients suffering from Covid-19. CoviRisk TBNK by Flow Cytometry can be one such biomarker," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Kirti Chadha, Group Head, Medical Affairs at Metropolis Healthcare Ltd, said, "The CD4 and CD8 T cells are important for triggering an immune response to bacterial and viral infections. The CBC blood test is carried out in patients with infections. While it can detect lymphopenia in blood, it cannot measure the specific lymphocyte populations that are impacting the normal immune response. In Covid-19 patients, the CD4 and CD8 T cell counts typically decrease with increasing severity of the disease and can help assess the immune response of Covid-19 patients. The CD3+, CD8+, T-lymphocytes, CD16+, CD56+, NK cells, C1q as well as IL-6 may play critical roles in the inflammatory cytokine storm. The dysregulation of these immune parameters, along with bacterial co-infection, are important causes of exacerbation of the patients' condition and death."

VAX SHORTAGE

Rural Kodagu residents struggle to get jabbed

ENS @Madikeri

THE shortage of vaccines is troubling the residents of Kodagu. The district is being supplied with limited doses of vaccines and vaccination plans are being released each day to help residents. However, rural residents complain about not receiving enough supply of doses even as the health department is in a fix to fulfill the demand of all beneficiaries.

"Karike GP had not been supplied with vaccination for over a month. We forwarded a request letter to the DHO and on Tuesday we received a minimum of 200 vaccine doses. However, this limited number is not sufficient," shared Balachandran Katoor, president of Karike GP. He said that of the 3,600 population in the village, only about 1,000 residents have been vaccinated with the first dose. "On Thursday, 150 residents received the second dose and 50 students the first dose," he said.

Akin to Karike, many other interior rural places are devoid of vaccine supply and villagers are forced to travel to urban areas.

In Ponnampet taluk, sources confirmed that only 947 residents out of over 7,600 population have been vaccinated so far. Meanwhile, vaccines have dried up across the district and there will be no vaccination drive on Thursday.

No two sero surveys can be compared, says expert

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

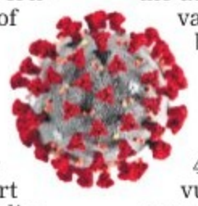
"THE data of the second survey is with the government. It is expected to release the data soon," Dr V Ravi, renowned virologist and part of the technical advisory committee to the government, said.

On adding the seroprevalence data of the two surveys, he said: "Sero-surveys are additive because our design did not include population from the first round. This is over and above the first round. We have used the same kind of tests too." But he did not comment on whether the report submitted to the government had done this kind of analysis.

On the other hand, Dr Tarun Bhatnagar, scientist at the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), who was part of the recently released sero-survey report by ICMR, told *The New Indian Express*, "I haven't seen the sero-report by Karnataka yet. But definitely we cannot add the two surveys. The thing is, depending on the gap between two surveys, there is natural waning of antibodies. So, even those who were antibody positive in the first survey, will show it waned. Even if the samples are of two different people, we cannot add it, as in general, antibodies would wane over time. We have to take whatever it is at that time as final."

Dr Gagandeep Kang, renowned virolgist and Prof of Microbiology with CMC Vellore, in a recent interview with *TNIE*, had said, "A lot depends on the test. If you use a poor test, you will have lower seropositivity. If you use a test that shows false positivity, then you will have very high sero-positivity. But no two surveys are comparable with each other if they are not the same test."

On the recent sero report by ICMR, Dr Ravi said the results are encouraging, but one should not be complacent. "Sero survey tells you that antibodies are present, but that is not directly equivalent to protection. Important attribution to protection is vaccination. Up to 60 per cent of the adult population is still not vaccinated. You can have antibodies, but if there is a new variant, it is dangerous. We must expect and prepare for any future waves."



Considering that around 45 crore population is still vulnerable and that even if 80 per cent come down with infection it means around 35 crore people would be infected, he pointed out. "If 5 to 10 per cent of them develop severe infection, then imagine the mayhem that will be created. So, until 75-80 per cent vaccination coverage is reached, we cannot relax," he stressed.

Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar could not be reached for comment despite several attempts. But Health Commissioner Dr K V Thrilok Chandra said the survey report will be released by this weekend or early next week, and that the details will be disclosed then.

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LOST & FOUND

Lost my original Memorandum of Deposit of title - Docket No.5962/2020, 21-1-2020 and Original Release Deed - Docket No.2813/2020 dt.15.12.2020. of L. Harikrishna and Deepa H. No.119, Ist floor, HMR Layout, Medarahalli village, Chikkabanavara Post, Bangalore. Lost Article Report lodge on 20.07.2021 in P.S. Bangalore. vide Lost Report No. 0011276/2021.
Finder May send to.
L.Harikrishna
Deepa H.
Contact: No: 9743762741

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOST

I, Chikkanarasa Reddy P.S., S/o Late Sanjeevaiah P, aged about 51 years, residing at No. 117, 7th 'B' Cross, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore-560064, on 10.04.2021, I was carrying my original General Power of Attorney dated 16.10.1993 that was executed by Sri T.S. Kannan in favour of Smt. Indira, lost my original General Power of Attorney and also the photocopies.On 12.04.2021, I lodged a complaint with the Yelahanka Police Station regarding the loss of the said document, and a "Lost Article Report" has been issued by the Bangalore City Police on 12.04.2021, if any member of public finds it please return it to above mentioned address

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of general public that I Mr. Kiran Kumar C is the absolute owner of the Site Nos. 493 & 494 situated at Andharhalli, assessment no 14, ward no 40,Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore-91 Taluk, each Site measuring East to West: 30 ft. North to South: 40ft. totally measuring-1200Sq.ft.And

Site No.493 bounded on: East: 492, West: 494 site, North: Shreedevi T Property, South: Road.

Site No.494 bounded on: East: 493 site, West: 495 site, North: Shreedevi T Property, South: Road.

The Original Sale Deeds both Dated:22-8-2016 executed to T.LOKESH, vide document No.PNY-1-03406/2016-17 and PNY/-1-03405/2016-17 registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, PEENYA Bangalore have been lost and the same were not traceable, if the said Original Sale Deeds are found by any person/s, pleased to hand over to the below mentioned address.

Any person or persons having or claiming any manner of right, title, lien, interest etc. in respect of the above said Property within 7 days from the date of this publication, failing which the claims, if any of whatsoever nature of all such person/s shall be deemed to have been waived or abandoned

Address: **Mr. Kiran,**
No. 25,4th Cross,1st Main Road,
Gokul Extn, Yeshwanthpur,
Bangalore-560022. Phone
No.9845990161

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited

Regd office at 27 BKC C27 G Block Bandra Kurla Complex Bandra (E) Mumbai - 400051
Branch/AO Office: 5th floor, No. 22 MG road, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560001 **www.kotak.com**

E - AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the Public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Guarantor (s) and / or Mortgagor (s), that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged / charged to **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited ("Secured Creditor")**, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor on 29-September-2020, will be sold through E-Auction on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS", and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" on 25-August-2021,** for recovery of **Rs. 21,59,49,194.68 (Rupees Twenty One Crores Fifty Nine Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand One Hundred Ninety Four and Paisa Sixty Eight Only) as on 14.01.2020** (as per the Statutory Demand Notice, dated 14-January-2020 issued u/s 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act), together with further interest and other charges thereon at the contractual rates upon the footing of compound interest until payment/realization due to Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited, being the Secured Creditor, from the **Borrower/s namely M/s. Black Pepper Technologies Pvt Ltd and Mortgagor/s / Guarantor/s namely Mr. Harikrishnan Purvankara, Mr. Basavaraj Nagaraju, Mr. V.S. Kashinath, Ms. V.K. Annapurna.** There is an outstanding principal liability of **Rs. 17, 45, 22,000.00 (Rupees Seventeen Crores Forty Five Lakhs Twenty Two Thousand only) in the account as on 30.06.2021** and that amount with accumulated interest and future interest is outstanding to the Bank.

The details / description of Immovable Properties put up for auction, the Reserve Price, the Earnest Money Deposit and the Auction Schedule are mentioned below:

Name of the Mortgagor/s	Details Of Immovable Property put for E – Auction	Last date for submission of online bid	Date & Time of E-Auction	Reserve Price (INR)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (INR)
(1)M/s. Black Pepper Technologies Pvt Ltd (2) Mr. Harikrishnan Purvankara, (3) Mr. Basavaraj Nagaraju, (4) Mr. V.S. Kashinath, (5) Ms. V. K. Annapurna	All that piece and parcel of property being No. N-40 having an area of 2700 Sq.feet in Eagelton – The Golf village and bearing Khata No. 415/N-40/361, situated in various survey numbers of Shyanamangala village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagaram Taluk and District and **bounded on the:** East by:Site No. N-41West by:Site No. N-39North by:Site No. N-36South by :Road. Together with all existing buildings and structures thereon and buildings and structures as may be erected/ constructed there upon any time from/ after the date of respective mortgages and all additions thereto and all fixtures and furniture's and plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth both present and future.	24 August 2021	25 August 2021, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Rs. 1,12,60,000.00 /- (Rupees One Crore Twelve Lakhs Sixty Thousand Only)	**Rs. 11,26,000.00 /- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand Only)**

The undersigned may at his absolute discretion and on request from the prospective buyers, arrange for inspection of the said property on 06-August-2021 between 01:00 pm to 02:00 pm through his authorised representative/agent.

Important Terms and Conditions:

1) The E - Auction shall be conducted only through **"On Line Electronic Bidding"** through website **https://kotakbank.auctiontiger.net on 25-August-2021 from 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 PM** from Time slot allotted for the Each Property with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes duration each.
2) For details about E-Auction, the intending bidders may contact M/s. E - Procurement Technologies Limited (Auction Tiger), For details please contact Name: **Mr.Praveen.thevar : Mobile: 9722778828 M/s Auction Tiger - and Email id: tamilnadu@auctiontiger.net**
3) The intending bidders may visit the Bank's official website - https://www.kotak.com/en/bank-auctions.html for auction details and for the terms and conditions of sale.
4) For detailed terms and conditions of auction sale, the bidders are advised to go through the portal https://kotakbank.auctiontiger.net and the said terms and conditions shall be binding on the bidders who participate in the bidding process.
5) It is requested that the interested Bidder/s are required to generate the login ID and password from the portal https://kotakbank.auctiontiger.net before uploading the bid and other documents.
6) The bid form has to be filled in the prescribed form and is to be submitted / uploaded online only along with KYC documents of the Bidder/s on the portal https://kotakbank.auctiontiger.net on or before **24-August-2021 up to 04.00 p.m.** and the scanned copies of the duly filled and signed bid documents and KYCs of the Bidder/s should be sent by mail to **varun.vedasagar@kotak.com, ponraj.thangadurai@kotak.com and Vijaykumar.HariMenon@kotak.com.** The Bidder shall write the subject of the email "For purchase of Property in the matter of "M/s. Black Pepper Technologies Pvt Ltd.
7) Prospective bidders may avail online training, for generating Login ID and password and for online bidding process etc., from M/s. E - Procurement Technologies Limited (Auction Tiger) on above mentioned contact numbers.
8) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT/FUND TRANSFER to the credit of **Account No. 06410125272001, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.,** Nariman Point Branch, Mumbai, IFSC Code: KKBK0000958, on or before 24-August-2021 up to 04:00 p.m. Any bid submitted without depositing the EMD amount shall stand automatically rejected. The EMD deposited by the proposed bidder shall not earn any interest.
9) The bid price to be submitted shall be equal to and / or above the Reserve Price and during the bidding process, bidders who have submitted bids shall improve their further offers in multiples of INR 1,00,000.00 (Rupees One Lakh Only).
10) In case any bid is placed within last 5 minutes of the closing time of the e-auction proceeding, the closing time shall automatically and immediately get extended by another 5 minutes.
11) The successful bidder has to deposit 25% of the highest bid amount (including EMD already paid) immediately on closure of the e-auction sale proceedings or on the following working day in case business hours is closed on the day of E - Auction, in the mode stipulated as above. The balance 75% of the highest bid amount shall have to be deposited within 15 days from the date on which the acceptance /confirmation of sale is conveyed to such successful bidder or such extended period which shall be at the sole discretion of the Authorised Officer and within the provisions of SARFAESI Act, 2002 and the Security Interest Rules, 2002.
12) The highest bidder will not have any right and title over the property until the Sale Certificate is issued in his favour subject to realisation of entire Auction Price and other incidental expenses. Sale shall be subject to terms and conditions of E - Auction and confirmation by the Secured Creditor to that effect.
13) If the successful bidder fails to deposit the entire bid / auction amount, the amount already deposited by the successful bidder shall be forfeited and the defaulting bidder shall neither have claim on the property nor on the amounts deposited. The Authorised Officer shall be free to exercise any one or more rights available to him in terms of the provisions of SARFAESI Act, 2002 and the Security Interest Rules, 2002, in respect of the auction property/ies.
14) On receipt of the entire sale consideration within the stipulated period as mentioned above, the Authorised Officer shall issue the Sale Certificate, the sale shall be completed thereafter, and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited shall not entertain any claims.
15) The sale certificate shall be issued in the same name in which the Bid is submitted. No request for inclusion/substitution in the sale certificate of names of any person(s) other than those mentioned in the bid shall be entertained.
16) The EMD amount, to the unsuccessful bidder/s, shall be returned by Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd, in their accounts by way of RTGS / NEFT / Funds Transfer, within 10 (Ten) working days and without any interest.
17) The Authorised Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject a bid or postpone/cancel the notified E – Auction Sale without assigning any reason. In the event of postponement/cancellation of the E – Auction Sale after submission of the bids, EMD submitted by the bidders will be returned, without interest and in case the bids are rejected, Authorised Officer can negotiate with any of the bidders or other parties for sale of the property by private treaty.
18) If any bidder intends to bid for more than 1 property under auction, then the bidders has to submit separate bids for each of the properties by following the process as mentioned above.
19) The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer / Secured Creditor, but the Authorised Officer / Secured Creditor shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
20) Any other encumbrances are not known to the Bank. The Authorized Officer or the Bank shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of property Auctioned. The Intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc.
21) All statutory dues/ other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser.
22) All outgoings charges i.e. Municipal Taxes, Maintenance/Society charges, Electricity and Water charges and any other dues or taxes including transfer charges / fees in respect of the property put for Auction-cum-Sale under the present notice shall be paid by the successful Bidder/Purchaser solely.
23) All other incidental charges (including but not limited to security charges or maintenance charges for preservation of the property under the present auction) will be borne solely by the highest bidder from the date of issuance of Certificate of Sale, which will have to be cleared / reimbursed to the Bank before registration of the Certificate of Sale. However at the sole discretion of the Authorised Officer, any just and reasonable delay will be considered for exemption, without setting any precedent for future.
24) As per Section 194-A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, TDS @ 0.75% shall be applicable on the sale proceeds if the sale consideration is Rs. 50,00,000.00 (Rupees Fifty Lakhs only) and above. The Successful bidder/purchaser shall deduct 0.75% TDS in favour of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., from the sale price and deposit the same with Income Tax Department and submit challan evidencing the deposit of TDS and Form 26QB / TDS Certificate to Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.
25) Sale will strictly be on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"** on the terms and conditions as mentioned herein, however the Authorised Officer shall have the absolute discretionary right to change or vary any of the terms and conditions. The bidders are advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding any encumbrances, Search in Sub-Registrar Office and Revenue Records and Municipal Records and any administrative Government records relating to the concerned Property and shall satisfy themselves regarding the nature and description of the property, condition, any encumbrances, lien, charge, statutory dues, etc. before submitting the bid for the concerned Property.
26) If the dues of the bank together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by them or part thereof as may be acceptable to the bank are tendered by/on behalf of the Borrower/s/Guarantor/s/Mortgagor/s, at any time on or before the date fixed for sale, the auction / sale of asset may be cancelled. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone/cancel / adjourn/discontinue or vary the terms of the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final.
27) The bidders shall be deemed to have read and understood the terms and conditions of the sale and shall abide by the said terms and conditions.
28) The bidders should ensure proper internet connectivity; power back up etc., The Bank shall not be liable for any disruption due to internet failure, power failure, or technical reasons or reasons / contingencies affecting the E-Auction proceedings.
29) Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited or its employees will not be liable for any claims from any person in respect of the property/ies put for sale.
30) The present notice is also uploaded on the Bank's official website i.e. **www.kotak.com** and interested parties can visit the same also.
31) For further details kindly contact **Authorised Officer Mr. Varun Vedasagar (Mobile No. 7829433605) Mr. Vijay Menon (Mobile No. +918291989137, Mr. T.Ponraj (Mobile no. +91-9884283338)).**
32) The sale is subject to the confirmation of the Bank.

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULES 6(2), 8(6), 8(7) & 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

The borrower/guarantors/mortgagors are hereby notified to discharge the liability in full and pay the dues as mentioned above along with up to date interest and expenses with in thirty days from the date of this notice failing which the "Secured Asset" (mentioned above) will be sold as per the terms and conditions mentioned above. In case there is any discrepancy between the publications of sale notice in English and Vernacular newspaper, then in such case the English newspaper will supersede the vernacular newspaper and it shall be considered as the final copy, thus removing the ambiguity.

Date: 22 July 2021
Place: Bengaluru

For Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited
Sd/-, Authorised Officer

The Karnataka High Court declined to stay the notification issued by the State Government which calls upon fresh doctors to undergo compulsory rural service for a period of one year

MAJOR DECISIONS LIKELY AT CABINET MEETING TODAY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

Amid growing speculation about a change of leadership in the state, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa's Cabinet will meet on Thursday and is expected to decide on a host of projects and seek administrative approval. Sources said there has been a flurry of activity behind the scenes and the Cabinet is likely to take some 'major decisions'.

The CM is expected to undertake a slew of measures and it is believed that the cabinet will issue approvals for a record number of works on Thursday. Meanwhile, a BJP legislator, who has been critical of Yediyurappa, told *TNIE* that he will meet the Governor and lodge a complaint if the cabinet clears an unprecedentedly large number of works in a hurry.

> I will meet Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot and lodge a complaint if the cabinet clears an unprecedentedly large number of works in a hurry
>
> A legislator critical of BS Yediyurappa

While the sources confirmed that the BJP top brass has firmly asked the CM to make way for a new leader, they added that Yediyurappa himself had informed certain people in his inner circle that such a move is imminent. They also said that the central leadership has not been too pleased with a large number of seers rallying behind him.

After his return from a two-day visit to New Delhi recently, Yediyurappa had dismissed suggestions about a change of guard while some of his loyalist ministers too have been saying that he will continue. Interestingly, a meeting of party legislators at a private hotel, which was scheduled for July 25 to mark the completion of two years of the government, now stands cancelled. The Chief Minister's Office and BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel confirmed that the event has been cancelled, but when questioned, Kateel said he was not aware of the reason for the cancellation. Sources in the CMO attributed it to logistical issues and said that the legislators will celebrate the second year anniversary of the government in their respective constituencies and arrive in Bengaluru for the main event on July 26.

The meeting with party legislators was originally scheduled for July 26 and later advanced by a day.

In addition, the CM has cancelled his Shivamogga visit scheduled for Thursday, where he was to participate in the launch of a string of development programmes. A source in the CMO said there was no need to read too much into the cancellation, attributing it to inclement weather. The Chief Minister's political secretary M P Renukacharya, too said, "I am in Delhi and I am not aware why these events have been cancelled."

KRV backs BSY, says sacking him will cost BJP dear

Bengaluru: Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa has now got the backing of Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV), one of the largest pro-Kannada organisations in the state. In a video released on Wednesday, KRV president Praveen Shetty warned, "If you (BJP) change BSY, get ready for a BJP-free Karnataka." Shetty said several pro-Karnataka projects like Mekedatu and Kalasa Banduri will materialise only if Yediyurappa continues as CM. Shetty said KRV is not associated with any party. "It is unfortunate that the you (BJP high command) are planning to remove a person who was responsible for the BJP forming a government for the first time in the South," he added. Further, Shetty said that Yediyurappa built the party in the state. "He travelled across the state and visited every village. It is his struggle that made BJP capture power in Karnataka. From one seat to 118 seats, he played an important role," Shetty added.

Show of strength as seers rally behind BSY

In an apparent message to the party central leadership, Yediyurappa hints he wields much influence

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

FOR two days now, seers of various religious institutions have been visiting Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa at his residence in a show of solidarity. Even as he refuses to speak to the media about it directly, Yediyurappa and his team have been bullishly highlighting this show of solidarity. The support comes at a time speculations are rife that Yediyurappa has been asked to resign as Chief Minister and make way for new leadership.

While Yediyurappa is said to have agreed to go, it seems he isn't going out without a show of strength. Those from the CM's camp insist that the wave of support coming his way — whether from Lingayat leaders of the BJP or the Congress, or religious leaders — shows that he remains the mass leader of the party. Others from within the BJP say this is Yediyurappa's attempt to convey that he still wields a lot of influence and cannot be mistaken to be redundant by the party's central leadership.

"Lingayat seers are making a beeline to support Yediyurappa on one hand, but most Lingayat leaders within the party have not shown such explicit support. In fact, the loudest critics of the CM and those eyeing his chair are from the community.

Siddaganga Mutt seer Siddalinga Swamy speaks after meeting Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa in Bengaluru on Wednesday

Who should we think influence voters more? Seers or legislators?" asked a senior legislator of the BJP who has been an intermediary between State and Central leadership of the party for decades. Sources in the party believe that religious leaders closing ranks in support of Yediyurappa — much like in 2011, when he was forced to quit as CM — is the 78-year-old Lingayat strongman's message to the party's central leadership that he can still cause considerable damage to the party if his terms on the imminent change of guard are not met.

While many seers have warned BJP of complete annihilation if Yediyurappa is forced out, others don't mind a change of guard as long as the new man at the top hails from the community.

"It is a misconception that a community circumambulate around just one person. The community is not dependent on one leader. Change is imminent and my appeal to religious leaders is to leave it to the MLAs to choose the Chief Minister. It is not the job of seers to decide on that," Kudalasangama Panchamasali Peetha's pontiff Basava Jaya Mruthyunjaya Swamy told *The New Indian Express*. The seer led the Panchamasali agitation earlier this year demanding 2A reservation status for the Lingayat sub-sect, which dented Yediyurappa's image.

DVS, Bommai insist BSY will remain CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AMID heightened speculation over leadership change in the state, many senior BJP leaders, including former union minister DV Sadananda Gowda and Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai, on Wednesday said there is no truth in the speculation and BS Yediyurappa will continue as the Chief Minister.

Gowda, a former CM and MP from Bengaluru North, said Yediyurappa is doing good work and there is no truth in the speculation over him resigning.

During his recent visit to Delhi, Yediyurappa met senior leaders and explained measures taken to fight Covid-19 and other development activities, Gowda said adding, that the central leaders appreciated it. "When you do good work, everyone will support you," Gowda said responding to a question on many Lingayat seers extending support to Yediyurappa. Several seers from various communities and even the Lingayat leaders in the Congress are backing Yediyurappa.

Bommai too termed discussions over leadership change as speculations. "Yediyurappa is a strong leader and he will continue as the CM," he said.

Murmurs over leadership change are rife after the CM's recent visit to the national capital. Names of many BJP leaders are doing the rounds as his possible successor if the high command decides to replace Yediyurappa.

However, sources in the party said there is no clarity on the issue even among the senior leaders. The CM is likely to visit Delhi again in the first week of August and any decision is likely to be taken after that, sources said. Some sections in the BJP believe that there may be a rethinking in the high command, especially after pushback from the dominant Lingayat community, that is strongly backing Yediyurappa.

Yediyurappa's son rubbishes talk, says it's just rumour

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Shivamogga

CHIEF Minister BS Yediyurappa's son BY Raghavendra, who is a Lok Sabha member from Shivmaogga, on Wednesday said all theories surrounding the issue of a leadership change in the state are baseless.

Speaking to reporters here, the Member of Parliament said, "It is all just a rumour. It is all only in the media." He said that a section of the media went ahead and ran stories saying Yediyurappa was ready to resign and had set conditions to the high command.

"In his 50 years of political life, my father has nurtured many leaders and thousands of party workers. He is not a mean person to think just about his children and family," he said. "BSY came to Shikaripura as a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Pracharak and thereafter fought against anti-people issues and entered politics. He built the party from scratch. There is no demand to either make me or my brother Vijayendra a minister," he added.

AMID LEADERSHIP CHANGE BUZZ, BJP HIGH COMMAND STAYS MUM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

WHILE prominently displaying the support he enjoys from religious seers cutting across caste lines, Yediyurappa on Wednesday appealed to supporters to refrain from protesting in his name. "I am privileged to be a loyal worker of BJP. It is my utmost honour to serve the party with highest standards of ethics & behaviour. I urge everyone to act in accordance with party ethics & not indulge in protests/indiscipline that is disrespectful & embarrassing for the party (sic)," the chief minister tweeted on Wednesday night. The appeal came at a time his supporters, including seers, said they would gather in Bengaluru to push for his continuation in the top post. Despite the hectic activity around the chief minister's residence, the party central leadership has not allayed speculation of an imminent leadership change. Their silence has compounded the confidence of a faction in the State BJP unit that has been pushing for a leadership change.

Leaders of the party whose names are doing the rounds as replacement to Yediyurappa, like CT Ravi, Arvind Bellad and Murugesh Nirani, have been inconspicuously making trips outside Karnataka, sparking off speculation that lobbying for the post is underway.

> I am privileged to be a loyal worker of BJP. It is my utmost honour to serve the party with highest standards of ethics & behaviour. I urge everyone to act in accordance with party ethics & not indulge in protests/indiscipline that is disrespectful & embarrassing for the party — BS Yediyurappa, Chief Minister

Veerashaiva Yuva forum praises CM for Covid mgmt

Mysuru:Veerashaiva-Linagayat Yuva Vedike has come out in support of CM BS Yediyurappa, a Lingayat strongman. Vedike president Gurumalappa on Wednesday demanded that the BJP high command allow Yediyurappa to complete full term in office. He said Yediyurappa's leadership has strengthened the party in the state from the grassroots level. He also praised Yediyurappa for his handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in the state. Meanwhile, Veerashaiva forums in Mysuru district have also thrown their weight behind Yediyurappa and demanded that the BJP high command not drop him.

Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot calls on Shah, Tomar

Bengaluru: Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot on Wednesday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Minister of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar in New Delhi. Gehlot, who is visiting the national capital for the first time after taking over as the Karnataka Governor last week, had earlier met several other leaders.

His leadership vital for Shivamogga: Cong leader

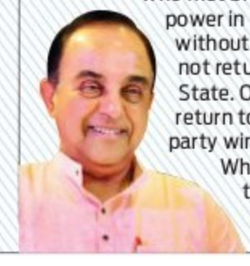
Shivamogga: Former MLA and Congress leader Belur Gopalakrishna has supported B S Yediyurappa's leadership stating that the latter may develop his home district of Shivamogga if he continues as the CM for the rest of his tenure. Speaking to reporters here on Wednesday, Belur said that the conspiracy to remove Yediyurappa from the CM's post has been going on in the BJP for a long time. Speaking about poor Internet connectivity in remote areas of the district, Belur urged the CM and MP B Y Raghavendra to solve the issue at Tumari and other villages. He said he supports the 'No network-no voting' campaign launched by the villagers.

In Varanasi, Bellad seeks seer's blessings

Hubballi: Even as CM B S Yediyurappa was holding a meeting with seers of major Lingayat mutts in Bengaluru on Wednesday, Hubballi-Dharwad West MLA Arvind Bellad, who is identified among the dissenters, was in faraway Varanasi seeking the blessing of Chandrashekahar Shivacharya Swamiji, head of the Kashi Peetha, one of the five Panchapeethas. Bellad has been busy garnering support from other Lingayat seers and had kept himself incommunicado during his visits. He told TNIE that his visit to Kashi was not sudden, but had been planned earlier and had nothing to do with politics. As he was in Kashi, he met the seer and sought his blessings, he said.

Swamy tweets in favour of Yediyurappa, deletes it later

Bengaluru: BJP leader and Rajya Sabha member Subramanian Swamy on Wednesday raised many eyebrows after he tweeted in support of Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa. Swamy, however, deleted the tweet later. Calling Yediyurappa a mass leader, Swamy tweeted, "It was Yeddiruppa who first brought BJP to power in Karnataka.... without him BJP could not return power in the State. Only upon his return to BJP could the party win again. Why repeat the same mistake?"



As murmurs of change of guard grow, future tense for turncoats

ASHWINI M SRIPAD
@ Bengaluru

AT a time when there is confusion in the state over a possible change in leadership, political circles are abuzz with speculations about the fate of former Congress and JDS legislators who joined the BJP to help the saffron party form the government in 2019.

The JDS-Congress government — headed by H D Kumaraswamy — fell after the resignation of 17 of the coalition MLAs. Most of them contested the bypolls on BJP tickets and became ministers in the B S Yediyurappa Cabinet.

A senior BJP leader, however, said the interests of these "turncoats" will be protected.

Chief Minister Yediyurappa, who is at the centre of a political storm with rumours swirling around his resignation ever since his recent Delhi visit, has been backing these "outsiders" from the time they joined the party. Of the 17 legislators, 12 are ministers in the Yediyurappa Cabinet, including M T B Nagaraj, who lost the bypolls from Hosakote. According to sources in the BJP, plum posts were given to the new entrants, ignoring party loyalists.

Speaking to *The New Indian Express*, a minister from the "outsiders" camp, said that they quit their old party as they trusted Yediyurappa and the BJP. "We do not know if Yediyurappa will continue as the chief minister or resign. We are hoping that the BJP high command will allow Yediyurappa to complete his full term. We also trust the party that has made us ministers and given us responsibilities. We have not just accepted the party ideology, but are ready to work as party workers too. We also hope that they will retain us in the Cabinet," the minister said.

Another minister suspected a change in their portfolios if Yediyurappa resigns and a new CM takes over the reins of the state. "In spite of Covid-19 and other crisis, we have done so much work. It will be unfair if they change our portfolios," he said.

A senior party leader, however, maintained that these ministers will not be sacked even if Yediyurappa is not the Chief Minister. "The party knows the sacrifices made by them and will retain them in the Cabinet. It is, however, up to the high command to decide on their portfolios," the leader added.

> The party knows the sacrifices made by them and will retain them in the Cabinet. It is, however, up to the high command to decide on their portfolios
>
> A senior BJP leader

Snoopgate: Congress plans Raj Bhavan Chalo

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CONGRESS leaders will take out a protest march from Vidhana Soudha to Raj Bhavan here on Thursday demanding a probe into alleged illegal snooping on several senior party leaders. 'Pegasus Project' by an international consortium of journalists, had revealed alleged illegal surveillance.

KPCC Working President Ramalinga Reddy said the party leaders will assemble at the Congress Legislature Party Office in Vidhana Soudha at 10 am and march to Raj Bhavan and give a memorandum addressed to the Governor demanding a probe. The opposition Congress has accused the Union Government of snooping on judges and many senior Congress leaders and are demanding a probe into it. The report had also revealed that illegal snooping could have helped to bring down the JDS-Congress coalition government in the state in 2019.

Congress workers protest against the Union Government amid the snoopgate row in Bengaluru on Wednesday

NO RIFT IN PARTY, SAYS SHIVAKUMAR

Bengaluru: Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president DK Shivakumar said the Congress will face the next Assembly elections under a collective leadership and rubbished reports of any rift within the party. Responding to a question on reports of rift between him and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar said, "It is all cooked-up stories... the party is united." Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah were in New Delhi on Tuesday and Wednesday to hold talks with the party central leaders.

Ministers Kota Srinivas Poojary and KS Eshwarappa at a temple in Shivamogga | SHIMOGA NANDAN

Mass marriage scheme to resume in state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Shivmaogga

MUZRAI Minister Kota Srinivas Poojary has said that the mass marriage programme 'Saptapadi' will resume in the state. Mass marriages will be held in 100 select Muzrai temples, he told reporters after visiting Kote Shree Ramanjaneya Temple here on Wednesday. Saptapadi was introduced to promote simple marriages. Poojary said that the programme was stopped due to Covid-19. He said that muhurtha for the mass marriage has been fixed and instructions have been given to department officials concerned to start preparations for the event.

The Karnataka High Court has declined to stay the notification issued by the State Government which calls upon fresh doctors to undergo compulsory rural service for one year. "The doctors have a duty to treat and the state is looking upon the doctors and is expecting them to come forward and counter this pandemic," the court said.

Passengers get down from the train after the accident to inquire about the delay | NISCHEY SHETTY

Mysuru-B'luru train runs over man, delayed by 94 min

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A man was run over by a Mysuru-KSR MEMU train between Yeliyur and Mandya in the Bengaluru Railway Division on Wednesday afternoon.

According to railway sources, the incident happened at 2:40 pm and delayed the train by 94 minutes. Subsequent trains along this direction also suffered delays as they were detained at various stations enroute. "Ramakrishna, the loco pilot, had applied emergency brakes after the accident and later, couldn't restart the engine. He then decided to start it from the rear cab. The train started and finally left at 4.08 pm," a railway source said. After the train reached Mandya, passengers had to deboard and alight different trains towards their destination. A railway official also informed that such accidents happen sometimes, but it never leads to delay in trains.

CRIME PATROL

Bank murder: Two suspects shot at, arrested

Bengaluru: Two rowdies - Ravi and Pradeep alias Chotthe - wanted for the murder of rowdy Joseph Babu alias Babli, who was hacked to death inside a bank on Monday, were shot at and arrested, after they allegedly attacked police, injuring two personnel. Special teams looking for the accused received information that they were near Begur Lake. Early on Wednesday, a team rushed in and surrounded them. In a bid to escape, the duo allegedly attacked the policemen with lethal weapons, injuring an SI and ASI. "Though Koramangala Police Inspector Ravi and SI Puttaswamy fired warning shots, the accused did not yield and tried to escape. To protect staff, Ravi and Puttaswamy opened fire on their legs," police said. Sources said the arrested are associates of one Shivakumar, a jailed rowdy.

Pandemic led to 'increased' human trafficking: UN report

Says women, girls 'recruited for sexual exploitation'

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

THE Covid-19 pandemic has not only proved to be a health and economic disaster globally, it has also resulted in increased trafficking in persons and exacerbated existing "disadvantages, poverty and vulnerabilities," stated a just-released study by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The report – 'The Effects of the Pandemic on Trafficking in Persons and Responses to the Challenges – A Global Study of Emerging Evidence' -- while illustrating the devastating impact of the pandemic on vulnerable populations, including migrant workers, women and children, stated that traffickers, taking advantage of the global crisis, capitalised on peoples' loss of income and increased amount of time both adults and children were spending online.

According to UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly, the pandemic has "increased vulnerabilities to trafficking in persons, while making trafficking even harder to detect and leaving victims struggling to obtain help and access to justice."

Traffickers "preyed on vulnerabilities and often lured their victims with fake promises of employment," explained Ilias Chatzis, chief of UNODC's Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, which developed the study.

"Thirty-seven per cent of stakeholder survey respondents reported that the recruitment of victims has moved online during the pandemic," it stated.

Women and girls have been "recruited, often locally or online, for sexual exploitation, especially in private apartments. Children have been particularly affected – out of school and needing to support parents who have lost their livelihoods. Children have been increasingly targeted by traffickers at the local level and online. They have been trafficked for sexual purposes, forced marriage, forced begging and for forced criminality. There is clear evidence of increased demand for child sexual exploitation materials (CSEM), which has exacerbated the exploitation of children around the world," are some of the disturbing findings of the report.

Vulnerable persons who, due to their worsened economic situation, were "recruited for labour or sexual exploitation in their local area. Women, children and migrants have been identified by survey and interviewed participants as particularly vulnerable to recruitment and exploitation during the Covid-19 pandemic," the study stated.

UNODC stated that the report is an "important new resource for policymakers and criminal justice practitioners... to investigate and prosecute human trafficking in times of crisis".

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office: 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Chennai-600 001
Branch Office: Municipal No.45, (Old Nos. 45& 45/1), Second Floor, Lalbagh Road, Bangalore - 560027

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13[2] OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002

You, the under mentioned Borrowers / Mortgagors is hereby informed that the company has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice under 13 (2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for Borrower/s has been returned undelivered. Hence, you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with interest accruing there from within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-Sec (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and costs. It is needles to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the company.

Name and Address of the Borrower/s and Co-Borrower	Loan Amount	Date of Demand Notice & Amount Outstanding	Description of the property/ Secured Asset
Loan Account No. X0HLHSO00002310328 1.Muniraja N 2.Vinoda M Both residing at 37/1, Ambedkar Colony, Ballur, Attibele Bangalore Anekal - 562107	Rs. 20,00,000/-	07.07.2021 & Rs. 20,50,341.24 as on 30.06.2021 with further interest thereon	All that piece and parcel of the Property situated at Bangalore Urban District, Anekal Taluk, Atttibele Hobli, Balluru Village, Sy. No.134, S.F. No. 134, measuring 0-20.08 guntas out of this measuring 0-08 guntas or 8712 Sq. ft and bounded as East by: Property of Mr. Gulla Reddy, West by: Property of Mr. Gopal Reddy, North by: Property of Mr. Konda Reddy, South by: 15 feet Wide Road from Main Road in same number and Remaining Venkateshappa land.

Date : 22.07.2021
Place: Bangalore
AUTHORISED OFFICER
Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED (DHFL)
Regd. Office: Warden House, 2nd floor, Sir P. M. Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001.
National Office: HDIL Tower, 6th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Bandra East, Mumbai – 400 051.
Tel: (91-22) 2202 9900 | Fax: (91-22) 2287 1985

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property)
Under Section 13 (4) of SARFAESI Act and under Rule-8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

WHEREAS
The undersigned is an Authorised Officer of **Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL)** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rules 3, 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated **04.02.2021** under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon **(a) Sri Chowdeshwari Projets [Borrower / Mortgagor]** having address at No. 306/A, Terrace Floor, No.666, Meenakshi Comforts, Kalena Agrhara, Bannerghatta road, Banglore - 560 076. **(b) Mr. D. V. Raghu [Guarantor]** residing at14/1, Chowdeshwari Neelaya, II right Cross, Jothinagar, Gottiegere, Bannerghatta Road, Banglore - 560 083, **(c) Mr. Vedananda Murthy (Guarantor / Mortgagor)** residing at 21, Chowdeshwari Krupa, 1st Cross, Grape Garden, T. R. Nagar, Banglore-560 028. **(d) Mr. Keshavmurthy N [Guarantor / Mortgagor] (e) Mrs. Prema [Mortgagor], (f) Mr. K. Naveen [Mortgagor] (g) Mr. K. Karthik [Mortgagor] No (d) to (g) all residing at** 54, Shigehalli, Seegahalli Village, Belturu Hobli, Whitefield , Bangalore - 560 067, of the Loan Account Code No. 00006110of Bangalore Branch to repay the amount outstanding as mentioned in the notice of **Rs. 52,82,52,663/-(Rupees Fifty Two Crore Eighty Two Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty Three Only)** payable as on30/01/2021 towards your dues along with further interest, non-compliance charges, incidental expenses, costs, and any other charges etc., as may accrue from 31-01-2021within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice.
The Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below on this 14/07/2021 in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules formed there under.
The Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property described herein below and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of DHFL, for an amount of Rs. 52,82,52,663/-(Rupees Fifty Two Crore Eighty Two Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty Three Only)towards your dues along with further interest, non-compliance charges, incidental expenses, costs, and any other charges etc., as may accrue from 31-01-2021till the date of repayment of the entire liability of the Loan Account Code No. 00006110 of Bangalore Branch.
The Borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of project "Thirumala Lakshmi Vaibhav" situated at land admeasuring 3 Acres 8 Guntas bearing S no 25/1 & 26/1 situated at Sheegehallli Village Bidarahalli Hobli, Dinnur Road, Whitefield, Bangalore East along with present and future constructions thereonwhich includes 98 unsold units of Developers share, 35 unsold units of Land Owner Mr. Keshavamurthy N's shares mortgaged and Hypothecated tot DHFL and 35 sold units of Developers shares hypothecated to DHFLalong with proportionate undivided share of land excluding a) the units earmarked for Land Owner-2 i.e. Mr. Vedananda Murthy and b) the "sold & registered" units, and bounded as under East by: Road, West by : Remaining land in Survey No.24, North by: Property belongs to Sri. Keshavamurthy, South by: land in Survey No.25 & 26,

Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.
Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Place : Bengaluru
Date : 22/07/2021

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ನಿಯಮಿತ.,
ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಘಟಕ, ಗೆಜ್ಜಲಗೆರೆ –571428. ☎ : (08232) 274571
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : (08232) 274666
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮಂಹಾಒ/ಶೇ.ತಾಂ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಬಿ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ/01/2021–22 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.07.2021

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಶೇ.ತಾಂ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕಾ ಮಾರ್ಗಗಳಿಗೆ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ
1	TRANSPORTATION OF CHILLED MILK FROM BMC's TO MANMUL	MMU/P&I/E-PROCUREMENT/P&I-13/2021-22

1	ಇ– ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಲಭಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.07.2021 ರಿಂದ 21.08.2021 ರ 13.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
2	ಪ್ರೀಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.08.2021ರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
3	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟನೆ/ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ ಪಡೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.08.2021 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
4	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ / ನಮೂದಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.08.2021 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
5	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ (ಭಾಗ–I) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.08.2021 ರ ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
6	ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ (ಭಾಗ–2) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	ನಂತರ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು
7	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ	ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಸಭಾಂಗಣ

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಬಂಧ ನೀಡಬೇಕಾದ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು.

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಹಾಲು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ಪರವಾಗಿ
ಸಹಿ/– ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)
National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR)
NIOT Campus, Velachery-Tambaram Main Road, Pallikaranai, Chennai - 600100

RECRUITMENT NOTICE
Advertisement No. MoES/NCCR/Rectt.PS/31/2021

National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Chennai, an attached office of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), established in 1998, has been implementing various projects in coastal research to provide systematic information, solutions and services for effective management of coastal areas.

Applications are invited for filling up of temporary project positions for various programs such as Coastal Process and Hazards, Marine Pollution and Marine Litter, Ecosystem and Critical Habitats, and Marine Spatial Planning. The posts are purely on temporary and on contract basis, initially for a period of 1 year and may likely to be extended, based on the performance review and based on the project requirements.

The details of project posts, number of vacancies and emoluments are given below:

Post Name	No. of Vacancies	Monthly Emolument
Project Scientist-III	3	Rs.78,000/- + HRA
Project Scientist-II	35	Rs.67,000/- + HRA
Project Scientist-I	29 [SC-4,ST-2,OBC-8, EWS-3,UR-12]	Rs.56,000/- + HRA
Senior Research Fellow	4 [SC-1, OBC-1,UR-2]	Rs.35000/- + HRA
Technical Assistant	1	Rs.20000/- + HRA
Field Assistant	9 [SC-1,ST-1,OBC-2, EWS-1,UR-4]	Rs.20000/- + HRA

More details on posts, qualifications, experience and nature of work along with link for ONLINE Application Form are available on NCCR website page : **https://www.nccr.gov.in/NRect2021/nrect1.htm**

Online registration commencement date : **24.07.2021 5:00 PM**
Last date for submission of online applications : **20.08.2021 5:00 PM**
Last date for receipt of applications (hardcopy) : **27.08.2021 5:00 PM** at NCCR

Date: 20.07.2021 Sd/- HEAD OF OFFICE

IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT AT BENGALURU
FDP. No. 36/2019

BETWEEN:
1. Smt. SARALA, D/o Late. Muniyappa,
2. Smt. PUSHPA, D/o Late. Muniyappa, Aged about 39 years, Both are residing at No 31, 1st Main Road, Pantharapalya, Mysore Road, Bengaluru-560026. ...PETITIONERS
AND :
Smt. YERRAMMA & others ...RESPONDENTS
Notice to Respondent No. 3 :
Sri. ARAVIND, S/o Late. Meti Krishna Reddy, Aged about 52 years, R/a No. 10, Vinayakanagar, J.P.Nagar 5th Phase, Bengaluru-560078.
...RESPONDENT No. 3

This is to inform you that Smt. Sarala & another, being the daughters of Late. Muniyappa have filed the above case in FDP No. 36/2019, seeking specific allotment of their shares in terms of the preliminary decree passed in O.S. No. 379/2010 and in the said case, you have been arraigned as Respondent No. 3. The stage of the above case is set down for your appearance **on 16.8.2021** and you are hereby called upon to answer the claims of the petitioners by appearing before the Court in the forencon of **16.8.2021** either in person or through a counsel, failing which the Hon'ble Court would pass necessary orders in your absence placing you as exparte.

SUIT SCHEDULE PROPERTY
(As per the amended plaint filed in O.S. No. 379/2010)

All that part and parcel of the land bearing Sy.No. 64/3, measuring 39 guntas, situated at Kembattahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and bounded on the;
East by: Water Channel, West by: Property belonging to Smt. Venkatamma, North by: Boundary of Kodihalli, South by : Property of Lakshmamma & Venkataramana.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 20.07.2021.

By order of the Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Senior Civil Judge's Court, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore.

Form No. 18
Notice for appearance in Appeals Order 41 Rule 14 CPC and Rules 1, 2, 4 and 11 of Chapter IV Karnataka High Court Rules
IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
MFA No. 4974 / 2015 (MV-SJ)

Appellant : MR. DEBAPRIYO BHATTACHARJEE, Son of Mr. D.N. Bhattacharjee, Aged about 34 years, Residing At No.295/3, Flat No.301, Mytri Residency, 5th Cross, Marutinagar, Malleshpalya, Bangalore-560075.
By Sri Samarth Prakash, Adv
vs
Respondent : Mrs. RANI, Wife of Late Veerabhadra, Aged about 41 years, Residing at No.7, Venkateshwara Temple Road, Mangammanapalya, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068.

Appeal From the Judgement/Award/Order passed on 06/04/2015 in M.V.C. Number 2014/2014 on the file of the VIII ADDL. SCJ AND XXXIII ACMM MEMBER-MACT, AT BENGALURU (SCCH-5).

To, Respondent : Mrs. Rani, Wife of Late Veerabhadra, Aged about 41 years, Residing at No.7, Venkateshwara Temple Road, Mangammanapalya, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560068.

Whereas the aforementioned Appeal preferred has been registered by this Court.
NOTICE IS HEREBY given to you to appear in this Court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorized by law to act for you in this case **on 13/08/2021 at 10.30 a.m.** in case you intend to contest the appeal, if you fail so to appear, the appeal will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this court on 2nd day of July 2021.
By order of the Court (VENKATESHAIAH) Assistant Registrar

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Belapur Bhavan, Plot No.6, Sector-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614.
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW NOTIFICATION No.CO/P-R/04C/2021

Konkan Railway Corporation Limited requires candidates for the following posts in various construction projects for its works in connection with construction of Road, Tunnel & New Railway Line etc. on fixed term contract basis.

POST	VACANCY	DATE OF WALK-IN-INTERVIEW	VENUE
PROJECT ENGINEER	01	27.07.2021	KR Vihar, Konkan Railway Executive Club, Sector-40, Seawoods-West, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400706. Reporting Time: 09.00 Hrs. to 12.00 Hrs.
SENIOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANT	05	29.07.2021	
JUNIOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANT	01		

Candidates may see the details of notification, eligibility criteria etc. on the KRCL website **www.konkanrailway.com** at the link **Recruitment -----> Current Notification** and may report directly for walk-in-interview at the above mentioned venue.
Chief Personnel Officer

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
Yelwala, Mysuru - 571130
Tel:0821-2406879/6201 Fax:0821-2403064

BRIEF TENDER NOTICE

The Superintending Engineer, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mysore invites for & on behalf of the President of India, Sealed item rate tenders from experienced Contractors who have done similar works for government organizations /CPWD etc.for the following work(s):

Tender Reference No.	BARC/MYS/AM/CDK/2021/WT- 03
Name of work	Breakdown maintenance of vertical storage systems at BARC, Mysuru.
Estimated Cost	₹ 4,45,000 (Rupees Four lakh forty five thousand only)
Period of Completion	21 days
Earnest Money Deposit	Nil, Submit Bid Security Declaration
Cost of Tender Document	₹ Rs 500/-(Rupees Five Hundred only) Non-Refundable
Tender Sale Period	From 22/07/2021 (11:00 hrs) to 06/08/2021 (15:00 hrs)

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting Tender(NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details,which can be downloaded from web site *www.barc.gov.in*
Sd /- Superintending Engineer
For & on behalf of President of India

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THE KODAGU DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE CENTRAL BANK LTD.
HEAD OFFICE: MADIKERI -571201, KARNATAKA ETD: 1921
General Thimmaiah Circle
Chief Executive Officer: 08272-228744. General Manager 08272-228827

Tender No.KDCCB/ADM 1/2021-22 Date: 20.07.2021

E-TENDER NOTICE

Kodagu District Co-operative Central Bank Ltd. Madikeri, Item -rate Tenders are invited from CLASS-II and above contractors through e- tendering for the following work.

Sl. No.	Description	Details
1	Department Name	Kodagu District Co-operative Central Bank Ltd Madikeri
2	Title of work	Proposed Construction of Centenary Block- Basement + Ground + 1 floor, KDCC (Civil Works) Sy No/471/14, 471/8 & 471/15
3	Tender Number	CEO/ADM /Tenders/1./2021-22.
4	Estimated Cost	Rs 2,55,18,621.00.
5	Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue work order	Eighteen Months(18 months)
6	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 5,10,372.00
7	Tender processing Fee (Non-refundable)	Rs. 5900/-
8	Tender Type	Two Cover System : 1. Technical Bid 2. Price Bid
9	Period During which the tender documents can be down loaded	From : 22.07.2021 - 10.00 hrs. To : 21.09.2021 10.00 hrs
10	Last date and time for uploading tenders	UPTO 21.09.2021 14.00hrs
11	Due date and time for opening of tenders	21.09.2021 at 14.30 hrs.
12	Performance Guarantee	The successful contractor shall deposit before commencement of work, an amount equal to 5% of the tendered value of work as performance guarantee in the form of Demand Draft/ Bank guarantee.
13	Security Deposit	A sum @ 5% of gross amount of bill shall be deducted from each running bill, till the sum along with the sum already deposited as Earnest Money, amounts to security deposit @ 15% of the tendered amount of the work
14	Tender Documents	Can be down loaded and to be submitted thru the website www.tenderwizard.com/www.kodagudccbank.com as per date mentioned above

Intending bidders should submit their proposals on or before the time and Date specified in the Notice Inviting Tender to President /CEO Kodagu district Cooperative Central Bank Ltd Madikeri in two bid system Cover 1- Technical bid Cover 2- Price bid.

The proposal shall be opened at Kodagu district Cooperative Central Bank Ltd Madikeri on the date and time mentioned above in the presence of the bidders / their representatives who wish to attend.

The tendering process in online and tender details are available in the website **www.tenderwizard.com/ www.tenderwizard.com/www.kodagudccbank.com** All interested bidders are requested to visit this tendering portal and submit their bids online.

If any of the dates mentioned above happens to be a holiday, the actual dates for the same will be the next working day. No separate intimation in this regard will be Issued.

The bidding authority reserves the right to modify /cancel any or all proposals without assigning any reasons. Kodagu district Cooperative Central Bank Ltd Madikeri will not be responsible for any errors like missing of schedule data while downloading by the bidder/ non receipt of document / delay if any.

Further details can be had from

1) President/Chief Executive Officer, Kodagu district Cooperative Central Bank Ltd Madikeri

2) e-Tender participation, please contact KEONICS Help desk on Ph: 080-49352000 /9686196760/ 9686196765. E-mail: **mohan@@etenderwizard.com, Prabhuswamy@etenderwizard.com**

Sd/- President/Chief Executive Officer
for Kodagu District Co-operative Central Bank Ltd. Madikeri

QuoteExpress IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING › WINSTON CHURCHILL

KANNADA FILM PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
No. 1025/138, S.V. Tower, 20th Main Road,
5th BlockWest of Chord Road,
Date : 22-07-2021 Bangalore — 560 010

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System)

Tender on item rate basis is invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from Class- I registered contractors in registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES.

Sl. No	Name of the work	Approx. Value of Work (Rs. In lakhs)
1	Proposed Construction of Commerial Complex for Kannada Film Producers Association at Kumara park, Bangalore	500.00
Tender documents Fee EMD (In.Rs)	Rs. 1000/=(Rupees One thousand) Rs. 5.0 Lakhs (Rupees Five Lakhs)	

1) Tender document can be obtained on **23-07-2021** from **Kannada Film Producers Association,** No. 1025/138, S.V. Tower. 20th Main Road, 5th Block West of Chord Road, Bangalore — 560 010 contact no, **080-23401386**
2) Date of Pre-Bid meeting: **28-07-2021** at **11.30 Hrs**
3) Last date for submitting the filled proposals is **05-08-2021** upto **16.00 Hrs**
4) Date of opening of 'Technical Proposals is **07-08-2021** after **11.00 Hrs.**
5) Date of opening of Financial Proposals after approval of Technical Proposals.

D.K, Ramakrishna, President, **KFPA**

Bharat Bank
Bharat Co-op. Bank (Mumbai) Ltd
Multi-State Scheduled Bank

No.100, Money Terrace, K H Road, Bangalore - 560 027 Tel No. : 080-2212 7203 / 2212 1066 / 2229 1942

(Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002

Sir/Madam,

(1) Notice is hereby given to the below said borrowers under Section 13(2) of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. This notice is published in addition to the notice sent to your last known address by Registered A.D. Post. **(2)** At your request, Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd., amongst it's branch at Jayanagar, Bangalore Branch has sanctioned to you by way of financial assistance against the mortgage of the property described herein below creating security interest thereon , as per terms & condition mentioned in respective Sanction letter by executing necessary loan documents. **(3)** You have failed and neglected to pay the loan amount and therefore the said financial assistance/credit facility have become NPA on 05.10.2020. Demand Notice dated 13.07.2021 under section 13(2) of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 call upon the below borrowers and the said notice was sent to your last known addresses by Registered Post A.D & the same are returned as unserved with a remark 'Addressee Left'. **(4)** Therefore, I hereby through this publication call upon you to discharge your entire liabilities in respect of below mentioned loan accounts within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice and failing which Bank shall exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section 4 of section 13 of the aforesaid act and under other applicable provisions of the said Act. **(5)** You are also put on notice that in terms of Sub-Section (13) of Section 13, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed below without obtaining written consent of the said Bank. **(6)** The said Bank reserves its right to call upon you to repay the entire liabilities under the said Loan Account that may arise hereafter as well as other contingent liabilities. **(7)** This notice is without prejudice to the said Bank's right to initiate such other actions and/or legal proceedings as it deems necessary under any other applicable provisions of Law. You are liable to pay service charges/ cost/ expenses, if any for actions under the said Act as applicable. **(8)** You are free to take inspection of the statement of account maintained by the said Bank and the loan documents executed by you relating to your Loan Account. **(9)** The said borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd. **(10)** For more details you may collect the unserved Demand Notice dated 13.07.2021 from the office of the undersigned. **(11)** Please note that the borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower, Co-Borrower	i) Date of Demand Notice & ii) Loan A/c. No. & Outstanding Loan Amount	Description of the Mortgaged property
1.	**Principal Borrower :** **Mrs. Prathima C M** W/o. Mr. Byresha C No. 4/5/4, "Navadurga Nilaya" 1st Cross, Someshwara Temple, Bannerghatta Road Hulimavu, Bengaluru-560 076	**i) 13.07.2021** **ii) Housing Loan Account No. 003433330000216 Rs. 34,21,073/- as on 03.07.2021** together with further interest @ 9.90% per annum + penal interest @ 2% per annum thereon with effect from 04.07.2021	All that piece and parcel of immovable Residential House property bearing **Site No.192,** Khatha No.192/65, situated at **Mylasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District,** presently within the limits of Doddathoguru Village Panchayath, measuring East to West : 40-00 feet and North to South : 30-00 feet, in all measuring **1200sq.ft** together with RCC Roofed residential house constructed thereon owned by **Mrs.Prathima C M** and bounded by : **East : Road** **West : Site No.202** **North : Site No.193,** **South : Site No.191**
2.	**Joint / Co Borrowers :** **Mr. Byresha C** S/o. Mr. Chowdaiah No. 4/5/4, "Navadurga Nilaya" 1st Cross, Someshwara Temple, Bannerghatta Road Hulimavu, Bengaluru-560 076		

Sd/- **Dy. General Manager and Authorised Officer**
Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd.
No. 100, Money Terrace, K.H. Road (Double Road), Bangalore-560 027
Phone : 080-2229 1942

Place : Bangalore
Date : 22-07-2021

DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED (DHFL)
Changing Rules Changing Lives
National Office: HDIL Tower, Ground Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Station Road, Bandra East, Mumbai-400 051. | **Branch office : Bengaluru Magestic Branch**

DEMAND NOTICE

(THE NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (the SARFAESI Act") READ WITH RULES 3(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002)

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. ("DHFL")** issued notice dated **13.07.2021,** U/s 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act to below mentioned Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors who have availed loans under loan account no.**00006111** from Bengaluru Magestic Branch of DHFL and have failed to pay Pre Equated Monthly Instalments/Equated Monthly instalments (Pre-EMIs/EMIs) of their loans to DHFL. Their loan account has been classified as Non-performing Assets (NPAs) as per the guidelines issued by the National Housing Bank. The Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors have provided security of the immovable property/properties (secured assets) to DHFL the details of which are described hereinbelow. The details of the amount outstanding and payable by these Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors to DHFL are also indicated herein below. The Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors as well as the public in general are hereby informed that the undersigned has initiated action against the following Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors under the provisions the SARFAESI Act. If the following Borrowers, Guarantors and mortgagors fail to repay the outstanding dues indicated herein below within 60 days from the date of the notice, the undersigned will be constrained to exercise any of the powers conferred u/s 13(12) of the SARFAESI Act and initiate any or all of the measures stipulated under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act to recover the amount due and payable by them as mentioned hereunder, with further interest, cost till the date of full repayment. The public in general is advised not to deal with the property/properties described herein below.

Date and other details of Notice issued u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI Act
Rs. 65,63,87,262/- (Rupees Sixty Five Crores Sixty Three Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Two Only) payable as on **07.07.2021** along with further interest, non-compliance charges, incidental expenses, costs, and any other charges etc. from **08.07.2021** till the date of repayment.
1. Dhruthi Infra Projects Limited, (Borrower/Mortgagor) : 120/B, 3rd Floor, EPIP Zone, Whitefield, Bengaluru – 560066. **And also at:** **Dhruthi Infra Projects Limited (Borrower/Mortgagor) :** H. No.1-120/M/T/312, Teja Block, My Home, Navadweepa Apartments, Madhapur, Hyderabad, Telangana – 500081.
2. Smt. P. Nagarathna W/o Keshava Reddy (Confirming Party) : No. 281, Main Road Opp. SBM Whitefield, Bangalore 560066
3. Sri. P. Keshava Reddy (Confirming Party) : No. 281, Main Road Opp. SBM Whitefield, Bangalore 560066
4. B. Parvathi D/o, Keshava Reddy (Confirming Party) : No. 281, Main Road Opp. SBM Whitefield, Bangalore 560066
5. Smt. B. Usha (Confirming Party) : No. 281, Main Road Opp. SBM Whitefield, Bangalore 560066
6. Smt. K. Dharani (Confirming Party) : No. 281, Main Road Opp. SBM Whitefield, Bangalore 560066
7. Smt. K. Bharathi (Confirming Party) : No. 281, Main Road Opp. SBM Whitefield, Bangalore 560066
8. Smt. P. Swetha (Confirming Party) : No. 281, Main Road Opp. SBM Whitefield, Bangalore 560066
9. B. Yerriswamy Reddy (Confirming Party) : No. 281, Main Road Opp. SBM Whitefield, Bangalore 560066
10. Smt. B. Narasamma (Confirming Party) : No. 281, Main Road Opp. SBM Whitefield, Bangalore 560066
11. B. Reddappa Reddy (Confirming Party) : No. 281, Main Road Opp. SBM Whitefield, Bangalore 560066
12. Smt. B. Parvathi w/o. B. Reddappa Reddy (Confirming Party) : No. 281, Main Road Opp. SBM Whitefield, Bangalore 560066
13. Mrs.Deepthi Dasari (Guarantor/Pledgor/Director): Flat No.15082, Prestige Shanthinikethan, ITPL Main Road, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560066. **Also at:** H. No.1-120/M/T/312, Teja Block, My Home, Navadweeepa Apartments, Madhapur, Hyderabad, Telangana – 500081.
14. Mr. K Krishna Kanth (Guarantor/Pledgor/Director) : H. No.1-120/M/T/312, Teja Block, My Home, Navadweepa Apartments, Madhapur, Hyderabad, Telangana – 500081. **Also at :** F. No. 309, Prudhvi Block, My Home Navadeepa, Madhapur, Hyderabad 500081
15. Dr.Mahendra Raju A. (Pledgor) : Teja Block, My Home Nava Dweepa Apt. Mahdhapur Hyderabad 500081
16. Ms. G. Sahithi (Pledgor) : #312, Teja Block, My Home Nava Dweepa Apartment, Madhapur, Hyderabad 500081
17. Mr. Palagani Sudhakar Rao (Pledgor) : residing at #40-5/4-2A, Patamata, Shyam Nagar, Vijayawada.
18. Mr. V. Ravi Kumar, (Pledgor) : residing at #312, Teja Block, My Home Nava DweepaApartment, Madhapur, Hyderabad 500081
19. Mr. KaturiSrinivasulu, (Pledgor): #312, Teja Block, My Home Nava Dweepa Apartment, Madhapur, Hyderabad 500081
20. Shruthi Gururaj : No7a/39, 4th Block, 9th Main Rajajinagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560010 Karnataka
21. Karru Rao, (Director) : 15-14, SELAPADU GUNTUR, GUNTUR - 522213 Andhra Pradesh
22. Anusuya, (Director) : 374, 10th Main, 1st D Cross, Near BBMP Ward Office Sampige Layout, Amarajyothi Nagar, Basaveshwarnagar Bangalore North - 560079 Karnataka
23. Venkatesh, (Director): Flat No304, Koolz Springs Apartment 3rd Cross, Opp Golden Gym Manorayanapalya Bangalore North-560032 Karnataka
Details of secured assets:
All that development rights on piece and parcel of land bearing project **"Tranquil Tower"** along with undivided share of project land admeasuring 88,916 sq. ft. (Borrower's/Developer's Share) situatedat land bearing BBMP Khatha No. 585/536 (carved out of converted land bearing Sy. No. 102 & 92/1 measuring 3 Acres 13 Guntas) situated at Ward No. 84 of Nagondanahalli, Krishnarajpura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,along with present and future construction, unsold and booked units as detailed in the Annexure I and II respectively of Demand Notice dated 13.07.2021, excluding the landowner's share of units along with proportionate undivided share of land thereon which is together bounded as under :- On or towards the East :Road and property bearing Sy. Nos. 92/3, 92/4, 6, 101 and 100, On or towards the South:Remaining portion of Sy. No. 102, On or towards the West: Property bearing Sy Nos. 110 and 103, On or towards the North: Remaining portion of Sy. No. 102. Together with easement, appurtenances, ingress, egress, pathways, accesses, things attached thereon, other ancillary and incidental rights thereon and all present and future construction thereon. (Please Note that the units constructed in **"Tranquil Tower"** for which DHFL has issued NOCs for sale/lease, may be excluded from the list mentioned in Demand Notice dated 13.07.2021 on production of copies of the NOCs of DHFL along with proofs in respect of payment made to DHFL and compliances of all other terms and conditions stipulated therein.)

As per Rule 3 (5) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, we hereby draw your attention to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the SARFAESI Act, under which the Borrower has right to redeem the "Secured Assets" by tendering the amount of dues of the secured creditor at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets. The Borrower, Mortgagors and Guarantors are therefore, requested to pay the entire amount due together with accrued interest, costs, and charges, expenses thereon and redeem the secured assets before the date of publication of notice as stated herein.
Please Note that under sub-section (13) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act the Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors are barred from transferring and/or dealing with any of the Secured Asset(s) described above by way of sale, lease or otherwise, without obtaining our prior written consent of DHFL and non-compliance of the said provisions of the SARFAESI Act is an offence punishable under Section 29 of the SARFAESI Act.
This notice is issued without prejudice to DHFL's rights and remedies available to it under all other Acts and the same shall not be construed as waiver of any of them. DHFL also reserves its right to raise further demands for the sums found due and payable by the Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors to DHFL.
All correspondence pertaining to this notice must be addressed to The Authorised Officer, Wholesale Lending Division, Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited, HDIL Towers, Ground Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Station Road, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051.

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 22/07/2021

Sd/- **Authorised Officer**
Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.

RITES LTD.,
A Govt. of India Enterprise (Ministry of Railways)
CIN No. U74899DL1974GOI007227
5th Floor, Industry House, 45, Fair Field Layout, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560 001
Ph. : 080-22290268, 22257118, Fax : 080-22266557, e-mail : bangalorepo@rites.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

GM(C), RITES Ltd. Bengaluru invites on behalf of the Department of Collegiate and Technical Education, GOK, Bengaluru online percentage rate bids in Single/Two Packet System for the following works: **1) NIT No. RITES/BLR/OT/11/2021 Date 22.07.2021, Construction of Additional Classrooms, Toilet Blocks, Renovation works for Govt First Grade Colleges at Devadurga, Maski, Sindhnur in Raichur District** Est. Cost is **Rs.234.75 Lakhs** (Approx.), EMD **Rs. 2.35 Lakhs,** Period of completion **18 months,** Last date and time of submission of bid **09.08.2021 upto 11.00 hrs. 2) NIT No. RITES/BLR/OT/12/2021 Date 22.07.2021, Construction of Additional Classrooms, Toilet Blocks, Renovation works for Government First Grade Colleges at Kalburgi, Jevargi, Sedam and Chincholi in Kalburgi District** Est. Cost is **Rs.274.53 Lakhs** (Approx.), EMD **Rs. 2.75 Lakhs,** Period of completion **18 months,** Last date and time of submission of bid **10.08.2021 upto 11.00 hrs. 3) NIT No. RITES/BLR/OT/13/2021 Date 22.07.2021, Construction of Additional Classrooms, Toilet Blocks, Renovation works for Govt First Grade Colleges at Ajjarkadu, Hiriyadka, Kotapadukere, Hebri in Udupi District** Est. Cost is **Rs.315.60 Lakhs** (Approx.), EMD **Rs. 3.16 Lakhs,** Period of completion **18 months,** Last date and time of submission of bid **11.08.2021 upto 11.00 hrs.** The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/ app.** Addendum / Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted online only.

Sd/- General Manager (C), RITES Ltd.
For and on behalf of Dept. of Collegiate and Technical Education

CLASSIFIEDS

OTHERS

THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING

Thank you for blessings and favours granted. Seek your blessings always.
PUNIT, SHOBHA, NARESH.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PURNIMA KAUL**, Resident at Flat No. 1501, 14th Floor, Accord Block, Wing A H M Symphony, Central Jail Road, Kasavanahalli, Bangalore - 560 035, have changed my name from **PURNIMA LODHA** to **PURNIMA KAUL** vide affidavit dated 20.07.2021 sworn before K.N. Ramadevi, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SACHINKUMAR M PUJAR**, Resident at No. GF-1, Sharadha Enclave 1st Floor, 2nd Main, Vignan Nagar, Bangalore - 560 075, have changed my name from **SACHINAKUMAR M PUJAR** to **SACHINKUMAR M PUJAR** vide affidavit dated 20.07.2021 sworn before K.N. Ramadevi, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **G. V. HEMAVATHI**, Aged about 34 years, W/o. R. Amara Narayana Swamy, Permanent resident of No. 03, Kogilu Main Road, Srinivasapura, Behind Maramma Temple, Yalahanka, Bengaluru - 560 064, have changed my name from **R. PUSHPAVATHI** to **G. V. HEMAVATHI** vide affidavit dated 21.07.2021 sworn before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SUNIL SHARMA**, S/o, Satyanarayan Sharma, aged about 47 years, Residing at No.7/1, 2nd Main Road, Palace Cross Road, Chandavarkar Layout, Bangalore-560020, Karnataka, India, have changed my name from **SUNIEL SHARMA** (Old Name) to **SUNIL SHARMA** (New Name), vide Affidavit dated:21-07-2021, Sworn before Advocate & Notary, M.S.Satish, Bangalore.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHAHEEN BEGUM DAMBAL**, W/o, Laeequr Rahman Dambal, Residing at No.31, 1st Floor, 3rd Cross, Muniveerappa Layout, Shampur, Bangalore-560045, Karnataka, India, have changed my name from **SHAHEEN BEGUM SHINGOTI** (Old Name) to **SHAHEEN BEGUM DAMBAL** (New Name), vide Affidavit dated:20-07-2021, Sworn before Advocate & Notary, Ziaulla, Kolar.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **S .GANAVALLI,** Spouse of No JC-311405K Sub C.Sivakumar, Residing at Door No: 4/229, Mottur Colony, Kanaka Mutulu (Post), Krishna Giri (Tk & Dist), Tamil Nadu (State), PIN : 635002, have changed my name from **S.GANAVALLI** to **S. GNANAVALLI** vide affidavit Dated 20.07.2021 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore.

DECLARATION

I, SERVICE NO. 15319609X BINU .R.K UNIT RHQ, 4 ENGR REGT C/O 99 APO, PIN: 914004, have changed my wife name **AMBILI BINU** from DOB **01.05.1980** to **11.05.1979** Vide Affidavit Dated 20.07.2021 Sworn Before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMBILI, Spouse of No 15319609X Hav Binu. R.K. Residing at Krishnalayam Pallickal, Nooranadu (Post), Pathanamthitta (Dist), Kerala (State), PIN: 690504, have changed my name from **AMBILI** to **AMBILI BINU** Vide Affidavit Dated 20.07.2021 sworn Before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore.

DECLARATION

I, SERVICE NO 15320166 N CHM K. SRINU, UNIT: TB-III, 'M' COY, MEG & CENTRE, Bangalore, have changed my wife name **K. JAYASRI DOB** FROM **05.05.1987** to **05.05.1992** vide affidavit Dated 24.06.2021 sworn Before Notary Gangaraju. B.N. Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DIVYA, D/o. Satish Kumar Rohilla have changed my name from **DIVYA** to **DIVYA ROHILLA** AND DATE OF BIRTH BEING **24.01.2001** Vide Affidavit Before Notary B M Chandrashekar, Bangalore Dated 16.06.21.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients **SRI. GANGARAJU. K.M,** and **Smt.RADHA. K,** W/o Gangaraju K.M, residing at No.489, 7th Cross, Opp. Rajanna House, Pragathipura, BSK 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560 070, has purchased the schedule property on 09.07.2021 vide Sale deed as document No.BSK-1-02486-2021-22, stored in CD No.BSKD1083 from **Jayashree, Neela & Vinay.**

The General Pubcli are hereby informed that, katha certificate and Bank challan of the schedule property issued by the Bangalore Development Authority, have lost while in transit, If the said documents will be found to anybody please inform me, and also requested not to deal with the said property, if anybody deal with the said property, they will be held responsible for future consequences.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property No.372, formed out of Sy. No.1,2 and 8 by the Space Employees HBCS Ltd, Bengaluru, have formed Sites as per BDA sanctioned plan and allotted the said property No.372, measuring East - West 12.195 mtrs and North - South 9.146 Mtrs, constructed RCC Roof 800 Sq.ft in the ground floor, 800 Sq.ft in the first floor, 800 Sq.ft in the second floor, totally 24 Sq.ft residential house with granite flooring, Windows of Kadumarada wood and all civic amenities and bounded on:
East by: 40 Ft. Road, **West by:** Site No.335, **North by:** Site No.373, **South by:** Site No.371

Sd/-
GANGADHAR. N, *Advocate*
231, 1st Floor, Laxmi Nivas, S.C.Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009.
Dated: 20.07.2021 Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients have negotiated to purchase the property shown in the Schedule below from **MR. KRISHNA,** Aged about 64 Years, S/o Mr. Venkatappa, R/at New No.101, (Old No.1116), 4th Main Road, 2nd Cross, Vijayanagar, Bangalore - 560040.
The above-named person has represented that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property.
Any person/s, institution/s having any right, title, claim or interest of any nature in the Schedule Property or any objections of any manner whatsoever to the above sale transaction between my clients and **MR. KRISHNA,** is/are hereby called upon to notify the undersigned and file objections / claims along-with supporting documents within **7 days** from the date of publication of this Notice at the address mentioned below. If no such claim is received, it would be deemed that the above mentioned owner has clear and marketable title to the property specified below and that others do not have any claim over the same and/or claims if any will be deemed to have been waived. Any claims raised thereafter shall not be entertained or binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the Immovable Residential Property bearing Municipal **New No.101,** (Old No.1116), **PID No.33-6-101,** situated at 4th Main Road, Vijayanagar, (Earlier Hosahally Extension), Bangalore, measuring East to West: 30 Feet and North to South: 50 Feet 6 inches, in all measuring **1515 square feet,** together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the:
East by : Property No.1117, West by : Property No.1115, North by : Property No.1124, South by : Road.

HITESH KUMAR JAIN, Advocate
HM LEGAL
No. 24/10, 1st Floor, Haudin Road, Ulsoor, Bengaluru-560042.
E : hitu.80@gmail.com
M: +91 9844372444 / Ph: +91 8048145789

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, AT BANGALORE
2nd Floor, Jeevan Mangal Building, No. 4, Residency Road, Bangalore – 560 025
O.A. No.580 / 2020

Between: Canara Bank, K.R. Puram Branch, No. 47, K.R. Puram Main Road, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru – 560 036. Reptd. by its Senior Manager, Smt. KALAIVANI C. ...**Applicant**

And

Sri. Shashi Kumar N. S/o Sri. Nagaraj M., Aged 28 years, Proprietor, M/s. SLVSP Cement Bricks Industry, No. 64, Kaveri Nagar, Vaddarapalya, Horamavu-Agara Main Road, Horamavu, Bengaluru - 560 043. ...**Defendant**

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against the Defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 24,90,581.80** (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Ninety Thousand Five Hundred Eighty One and paise Eighty only) together with current and future interest and other relief/s. The above Defendant is therefore, hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or through authorised agent/s in support of his defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **17-08-2021 at 11:00 AM,** as to why relief/s prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this **14th day of July 2021.**

Sd/-Registrar I/C
Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Bangalore

KARNATAKA STATE BEVERAGES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
4th Floor, TTMC Building 'A' Block, BMTC Building, K H Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027, Tel: 2248 3636 / 38 / 39 Fax: 2248 3645 / 2211 2106

No.KSBCL/DGMI/E-Pro/2020-21/019 **Dated: 19-07-2021**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Director (F&A), Karnataka State Beverages Corporation Ltd, Bangalore invites item rate Tenders on behalf of Governor of Karnataka for the following works as per Karnataka Transparency in public procurement ordinance of 2000 and Act 2000 in Single cover tender document system (KW-1) from the Class-III & above civil contractors/firms registered in Karnataka KPWD/CPWD and MES.Other details can be obtained through e-procurement portal at the website address **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sl. No.	Name of work	Amount put to Tender (Rs)	EMD Rs.	Tender processing fee (in Rs)	Period of Completion
1	"Providing Office Cabin and internal electrical works to CCI godown in Whitefield, Bangalore"	8,71,000/-	21,775/-	As per E-portal	1 month

Calendar of Events: 1) Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **28/07/2021, 04.00 P.M.**
2) Date & Time for opening of Bid: 29/07/2021 at 04.01 P.M.

Sd/-
Executive Director (F&A)

DIPR/DDU/JA/883/2021-22

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

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KARNATAKA EXHIBITION AUTHORITY, MYSURU
Office of The Chief Executive Officer,
Karnataka Exhibition Authority,
Doddakere Maidana, Mysuru. Ph: 0821-2446887, 2440828 (Fax)

No:KEA/CEO/ADMN/Security Management/2021-22/121 **DATE:19.07.2021**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement only (Two Cover System)

Tenders are invited from eligible and financially strong security agencies for providing Security Supervisor and Security Guards to the office of Karnataka Exhibition Authority from **01.09.2021 to 31.08.2022.** Tenders shall be submitted in two cover system through e-procurement website. For more information visit website **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in .**

Sd/- Tender inviting officer and
Assistant Executive Engineer (civil)
DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/324/2021-22 **Karnataka Exhibition Authority, Mysuru**

THE MYSORE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIES LIMITED
ISO 9001 COMPANY
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
P.B. No. 2221, Tumakuru Road, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru - 560 022. Ph: 23376851(6 lines) 23376641 (4 lines) Fax: 23371811
e-Mail: **mei.matls9@gmail.com**
Visit us at **www.meiswitchgears.com**
Ref.No.: MEIL/DGM/Procurement/Laser Cutting Machine/2021-22/131 Date: 22.07.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement)

Sub: Supply and Installation of CNC Laser Cutting Machine-JCCS-1530-2000 W with Close body and Table changer.

Calendar of Events:(1) Publishing of documents by e-Procurement cell: **26.07.2021. (2)** Last date for submission of queries online: **02.08.2021 (3)** Last date for submission of Technical & Financial Bids (Cover I &II): **09.08.2021 (4)** Opening of bids: **11.08.2021.**

Sd/- Deputy General Manager (Procurement)

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
'JAL BHAVAN', No. 6, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout
Bannerghatta Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 029
Phone : 080-41106507 - 18.
e-mail: cekwbbng@gmail.com Website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement portal only)

Lumpsum tender for the following works are invited (Two Cover System) through e-Procurement from eligible Agency/ Contractors as detailed below:

No.KWB/TEC/CE(B)/NGT-TND/SMG/646/2021-22 Dtd: 19-07-2021

1) Name and description of work : Interception and Diversion works at Shivamogga city under NGT(Lumpsum).

Work Indent No: KUWSDB/2021-22/WS/WORK_INDENT 3008.

Approximate value of work excluding GST (Rs. in Lakhs) : 1015.17

Period of completion Including monsoon (months) : 12 Months

No.KWB/TEC/CE(B)/NGT-TND/BDVT/647/2021-22 Dtd: 19/072021

2) Name and description of work : Interception and Diversion works at Bhadravathi city under NGT(Lumpsum).

Work Indent No: KUWSDB/2021-22/WS/WORK_INDENT 3007

Approximate value of work excluding GST (Rs. in Lakhs) : 729.86

Period of completion Including monsoon (months) : 12 Months

No.KWB/TEC/CE(B)/NGT-TND/HON/648/2021-22 Dtd: 19/072021

3) Name and description of work : Part-I: Upgradation of existing UGD scheme to Honnali town under NGT(Lumpsum).

Part-II: Operation and Maintenance for a period of five years including Defects Liability Period at Honnali town (Lumpsum).

Work Indent No: KUWSDB/2021-22/WS/WORK_INDENT 3006.

Approximate value of work excluding GST (Rs. in Lakhs) : 2275.64

Period of completion Including monsoon (months) : 12 Months for Part I and 60 Months for Part II

No.KWB/TEC/CE(B)/NGT-TND/RMN/649/2021-22 Dtd: 19-07-2021

4) Name and description of work : Part-I: Rejuvenation of existing UGD system in Ramanagara city under NGT (Lumpsum).

Part-II : Operation and Maintenance for a period of five years including Defects Liability Period at Ramanagara city (Lumpsum).

Work Indent No: KUWSDB/2021-22/WS/WORK_INDENT 3005.

Approximate value of work excluding GST (Rs. in Lakhs) : 1462.62

Period of completion Including monsoon (months) : 12 Months for Part I and 60 Months for Part II

No. KWB/TEC/CE(B)/NGT-TND/KKP/650/2021-22 Dtd: 19-07-2021

5) Name and description of work : Part-I: Rejuvenation of existing UGD system in Kanakapura city under NGT (Lumpsum).

Part-II: Operation and Maintenance for a period of five years including Defects Liability Period at Kanakapura city (Lumpsum).

Work Indent No: KUWSDB/2021-22/WS/WORK_INDENT 3004.

Approximate value of work excluding GST (Rs. in Lakhs) : 1941.18

Period of completion Including monsoon (months) : 12 Months for Part I and 60 Months for Part II

Earnest Money Deposit : Nil

Tender Processing fee(Rs.) : As per e-procurement portal

Calendar of Events:-

1) Documents will be available from : 22-07-2021. 2) Last Date & Time for seeking Queries / Clarifications : 29-07-2021 at 11.00 hours. 3) Date of Pre bid meeting : 29-07-2021at 11.30 hours. 4) Last date and time for submission / uploading of the tender in the e-procurement portal : 04-08-2021upto 17.30 hours. 5) Date and time for opening of Technical bid : 07-08-2021 after 11.00 hours. 6) Date and time for opening of Financial bid : 12-08-2021after 11.00 hours.

For further details, the Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Bengaluru, may please be contacted or website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in or e-Procurement helpdesk 080-22371090 / 22373788, email support: hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER (B),
KUWS & D BOARD, BENGALURU

DIPR/DDU/897/AKAR/2021-22

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Education. Goals. And game changing decisions.
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A 14-year-old boy was booked under POCSO Act for sexually assaulting a girl his age on Tuesday in Madurai. The boy and girl were studying in eight standard at a government school in the Madurai rural limits. The boy had gotten the girl pregnant

Kerala CM backs forest minister

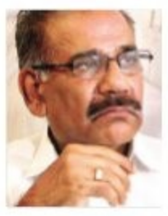
Saseendran convinces Pinarayi he intervened in abuse case as issue was between party workers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ T'Puram

DESPITE mounting pressure from the Opposition UDF, Forest Minister **A K Saseendran**, who is accused of intervening to settle a molestation case, is unlikely to step down. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the CPM leadership feel there is no need for the NCP minister to quit, with his party leadership too standing firmly behind him.

With the assembly session set to begin on Thursday, the Congress has approached the governor urging him to direct the CM to oust the minister.

Saseendran met Pinarayi at his residence on Wednesday and is learnt to have convinced him that he intervened in the matter as it was an issue between two party workers.



In a phone conversation leaked through the media on Tuesday, the minister was heard trying to settle the harassment case against NCP leader G Padmakaran by talking to the father of the victim.

The minister, who ruled out resignation, downplayed his meeting with the CM. "I wanted to explain a few things before the beginning of the assembly session," he said.

The CPM secretariat, which met on Wednesday, decided to go soft on Saseendran, saying he did not try to threaten the complainant's father. The party felt the minister's intention was not to settle the harassment issue but the feud between two party workers. The meeting, however, said the minister should have been vigilant before intervening in such cases.

"Action cannot be taken against the minister based on media reports. The Left front will examine the allegation. In this case, it's the NCP which needs to first take a call," said CPM secretary in-charge A Vijayaragavan.

Saseendran's decision to not quit has given impetus to the UDF to mount pressure on him. Opposition Leader V D Satheesan said the CM should see to it that Saseendran ceases to remain as forest minister when the assembly session begins on Thursday.

"Saseendran has no right to continue in office even for a minute as he abused his position. He has come up with lame excuses and unrealistic theories to cling on to power," said Satheesan.

BACK TO SCHOOL

EDU DEPT UNDER PRESSURE TO START OFFLINE CLASSES

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @ Bengaluru

THE chorus to restart offline classes is growing louder day by day. Now, School Development and Monitoring Committees, teachers and school administrators are demanding that physical classes be restarted. Since the state technical committee for Covid recommended June reopening for schools, the education department has been under pressure to reopen schools.

Educationist Niranjanaradya said that rural students have been adversely impacted with the closure of schools for a year and a half, in terms of health, nutrition, learning and overall development. "Not just that, incidents of child marriage, labour and beggary have also increased two to three fold," he added.

Noting that ICMR chief Balaram Bhargav had also recently stated that this is the ideal time to open schools, he felt that opening primary schools before middle schools would be a better move. "Younger children have better immunity to the virus, and it's reported that some Scandinavian countries too had kept their primary schools open," he said adding that it is time for schools in India to open up phase wise.

School Development and Monitoring Committee Coordination Forum (SDMCCF) state president Moidin Kutti told TNIE that officials in seven districts -- Dharwad, Davanagere, Kolar, Belgavi, Kodagu, Dakshina Kannada and Udupi – have already submitted appeals.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

8.1L students to write language papers today

Bengaluru: More than 8.1 lakh students are scheduled to write their SSLC board examination on July 22. The examination for the three language papers will be held together in a three-hour session, with 40 marks dedicated to each paper. As many as 8,19,694 students will attempt the first language paper, out of which 14,010 are repeaters. As many as 8,27,988 students will write the second language paper, out of which 22,304 are repeaters. A total of 8,17,640 students will attempt the third language paper.

Duty of MBBS graduates to serve in rural areas, says HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court declined to stay the notification issued by the State Government which calls upon fresh doctors to undergo compulsory rural service for a period of one year.

The notification mandates compulsory service to the government by all candidates who have graduated from MBBS colleges in 2021, which is made applicable to those students who have secured admission through government quota.

"This court has heard the counsels appearing for the medical students at length. This is not a time when these young doctors spend their valuable time litigating and questioning the vires. This court is reminded of a famous saying by Shakespeare, that considerable length of time is lost in challenging the vires of a statute rather than chasing vires which has a relevancy, and is aptly applicable to the present pathetic scenario," said Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum, in the interim order pronounced in relation to the petitions filed by Dr Sharanya Mohan and others.

The court noted that the legal relationship between the petitioners and the state is that the latter will provide education in medicine by way of subsidised fees, on the condition that qualified doctors would serve in rural areas for a specific period of time. This has to be taken as a composite bargain between the state and the students.

FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL

A migrant family builds a tent to stay at Chakkai in Thiruvananthapuram. They usually make and sell handicrafts by the roadside, and have recently returned from Andhra Pradesh after the lockdown | BP DEEPU

Internal reports not enough to penalise public servants: HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court declared that no penalty can be imposed against public servants on the basis of a report of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) over sexual harassment charges at the workplace, without holding any inquiry under the service rules.

Justice M Nagaprasanna passed the order, while quashing the show-cause notice issued to Dr U Arabi, Professor, Department of Economics, by the Mangalore University, after he was allegedly found guilty of sexual harassment in the inquiry conducted by the ICC, based on the complaint filed by a student.

Allowing the writ petition filed by Dr Arabi, questioning the second show-cause notice dated November 5, 2020, seeking him to show cause as to why he should not be dismissed from service based on the ICC report, the court said the university is at liberty to initiate proceedings against the petitioner under the service rules - Statutes Governing Classification, Control and Appeal Rules of Employees of Mangalore University - by following the procedures stipulated therein and conclude it within two months.

The court said the order of suspension of the petitioner is pending his reply to the notice issued on November 5.

EXPRESS READ

Locked up by employer, driver commits suicide

NAMAKKAL: A lorry driver set himself ablaze after his employer locked him up for cheating on Wednesday.Manickam , a lorry owner, abducted his employee, S Senthilkumar (37) of Kumaripalayam near Mohanur, a few days ago. The driver had allegedly absconded with ₹1.5 lakh he collected for transporting cargo to Odisha. ENS

Probe reveals NRI Vishala Ganiga's murder was plotted 6 months earlier

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Udupi

A DEEPER probe into murder of NRI woman Vishala Ganiga (35) that took place in her residential apartment in Brahmavara on July 12 has revealed that the murder was plotted by her husband Ramakrishna Ganiga through two contract killers in Dubai about six months earlier. Ramakrishna, taking the assistance of another accused had hired two contract killers to murder his wife as the relation between the couple had soured, investigations revealed. Among the two supari killers, police have arrested Swaminath Nishad (38) from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. The police are making efforts to arrest another supari killer and the accused who allegedly assisted Ramakrishna to hire superi killers. Their arrest may take another week's time. Ramakrishna is already in police custody.

Udupi SP Vishnuvardhana told reporters on Wednesday that victim's husband Ramakrishna had even handed over ₹2 lakh to supari killers to get his wife killed. In March this year, Ramakrishna, along with his wife Vishala and daughter Arvi had arrived to Brahmavara from Dubai and during that time, he had introduced the two supari killers to his wife as his friends. This, SP said, was to make Vishala believe her husband and meet them in future. Even on July 12, based on her husband's instruction over the phone from Dubai, she went to meet them at her apartment in Brahmavara to hand over some parcel. Just 10 minutes after she arrived at the apartment alone, the supari killers came and strangulated her. To hoodwink the police, they had taken the jewellery from her dead body to show it as a case of murder for gain, SP detailed, congratulating the police teams who worked hard to piece together all information and zero in on the culprits.

DG and IGP Praveen Sood announced ₹50,000 cash reward to the police team involved in solving the murder case. Western Range IGP- Devajyoti Ray issued commendation certificates to the team members.

TN govt plans grand celebration to mark 100 years of legislature

T MURUGANANDHAM @ Chennai

THE DMK government led by Chief Minister MK Stalin is making arrangements to celebrate the centenary year of the elected legislature in Tamil Nadu in a grand manner. The history of the elected legislature in Tamil Nadu began with a bang from the Justice Party rule during the British regime since it enacted many landmark legislations as well as social reform measures, and since then, the legislative body here has undergone many changes.

The DMK takes pride in celebrating its roots, and now, the centenary of the Madras Legislative Council is yet another occasion for that since the history of this legislative body began with the rule of the Justice Party that later blossomed into the Dravidian movement.

Asked about the need to celebrate the centenary of the Madras Legislative Council now since the diamond jubilee of the State Assembly from the year of Independence was celebrated in 2012, DMK spokesperson J Constantine Ravindran told TNIE that when the Madras Legislative Council was set up in 1921, for the first time, legislative powers were given to the provincial legislative body to enact laws for "peace and good government" in the Province. So, in other words, the people's government was established in 1921, starting with the Justice Party's rule.

"What is significant is that the then Madras Province had much more powers than the present setup. Above all, the Justice Party regime rolled out many path-breaking social reforms. So, we take pride in celebrating the centenary of that important milestone," Ravindran reasoned.

Political analyst Tharasu Shyam is of the view that the centenary celebrations would not be complete without inviting the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Odisha since parts of these States were part of the Province of Madras during the British Regime. If that happens, the event could be a show of strength for Stalin.

MONSOON FURY

Families request govt to help in relocation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

FORGET celebrations, the villagers had not even been able to live in their houses during Bakrid for the last three years as they had to move to relief centres opened at the Government School during the deluge in Wayanad and other parts of Kerala.

"As monsoon started in full force, we were doubtful of celebrations this year too. However, the Almighty is kind to us as the Kabini river has not crossed the danger mark," said Sameer from DB Kuppe.

He said that a few families are yet to rebuild houses that collapsed during the flood, while other families living in low-lying areas are seeking government help to relocate to safer places.

The local Moulvi, aware of the Covid guidelines, allowed not more than 15 persons for prayers and advised residents to pray at home. Those with families across the border did not invite any relatives as Kerala has been gripped by a Zika outbreak and fresh spike in Covid cases. Also, authorities have been insisting on RTPCR-negative certificates for those entering Karnataka at Bavali and Moolehole checkposts.

British era rail bridges replaced

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

FOR better stability of railway bridges, two British era stone masonry bridges have been replaced with modern Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) boxes by the Bengaluru Railway Division. According to an official release, the bridges, numbered 229 and 330 along the Bengaluru Jolarpettai section, have been replaced within the last two days.

"This will ensure better safety and strength for the track which passes upon the bridges. The work has been carried out despite challenges during the pandemic, before the monsoon season begins," it said.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

No. 506/BGM/SEE/Tr.(W&M)/C/EE(O)/AEE-1/21-22/F-/2763-73 Date: 20.07.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Manual Mode Only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited, invites Sealed Quotations in duplicate are invited for the following work in Tr(W&M), Circle, KPTCL, Belagavi.

Name of the Work: Erection and Commissioning of SCADA RTU & IF Panel along with allied equipments at new 110kV S/S G Hoskote.

Blank tender form can be obtained at the office of The Superintending Engineer (Ele), Tr(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Belagavi, during office hours from 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM on payment of Rs.500/- + Rs.30/- Tax, total of Rs.530/- from **22.07.2021 to 07.08.2021** for Tender form. (The tender form will not be sent through post and is not transferable).

Calendar of Events: 1) Receiving of requisition from **22.07.2021 to 07.08.2021 upto 04.00 PM. 2)** Issue of blank Tender forms: **from 22.07.2021 to 07.08.2021 upto 01.00 PM. 3)** Last date for receipt of completed sealed Tenders: **07.08.2021 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Opening of Tender: **09.08.2021 at 11.00 PM or as intimated by us.**

The undersigned reserve the right to accept or reject any of all quotation without assigning any reason. More details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during the office hours on working days.

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer (Ele.)**
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Nehru Nagara, Belagavi-590010, Ph: 0831-2590835

EQUITAS SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS EQUITAS FINANCE LTD)
Registered Office: No.769, Spencer Plaza, 4th Floor, Phase-II, Anna Salai, Chennai, TN - 600 002. # 044-42995000, 044-42995050

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

NOTICE is hereby given that the following borrower/s have availed loan from Equitas Housing Finance Limited (EHFL) / Equitas Finance Limited (EFL) / Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd. In the meantime, M/s Equitas Housing Finance Limited., has amalgamated with M/s Equitas Finance Limited., as per the Scheme of Amalgamation sanctioned by the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature, at Madras., in CP Nos: 119 TO 121 OF 2016 vide its order dated 06-06-2016. By virtue of the said amalgamation, all the rights and liabilities of Equitas Housing Finance Limited stands vested in Equitas Finance Limited. This is to further inform you that under the certificate issued by the Registrar of Companies, Chennai, the name of M/s Equitas Finance Limited., was changed to M/s Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited, and the Reserve Bank of India had issued a license dated 30-06-2016 to Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited to carry on the business of banking. The said borrower/s had/have failed to pay Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) of their loan on account of which their loan account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset as per the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India . The borrower(s) have provided security of the immovable property/ies , the details of which are described herein below. The details of the loan and the amounts outstanding and payable by the borrower/s to ESFB as on date are also indicated herein below. The borrower(s) as well as the public in general are hereby informed that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ESFB, the secured creditor has initiated action against the following borrower(s) under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the SARFAESI Act). If the following borrower(s) fail to repay the outstanding dues indicated against their names within 60 (Sixty) days of this notice, the undersigned will exercise any one or more of the powers conferred on the Secured Creditor under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, including power to take possession of the property/ies and sell the same. The public in general is advised not to deal with property/ies described herein below.

Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) (Name of the Branch)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)
Branch : Yelahanka L.No: VLPHPNYA0002932 Borrower: Mrs. Ananda T N, Co – Borrower: Mrs. Kavita B Mr. Kiran T N Mrs.Lakshmamma	07.03.2020 & Rs. 9,96,101/-	**Item No.1:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.3, formed in Converted land of 1 Acre 24 Guntas in Sy.No.334/3, (Old Sy.No.334/1), converted vide Order passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District dated 29.11.2004, bearing No.ALN (D) SR.111/2004-05, Municipal Katha No.452/3543/2/211/2/3, situated at Shanthinagara, Ward No.20, Division No.4, Devanahalli Bangalore Rural District, and bounded on: East by : 30 feet layout Road, West by : portion of the property belongs to Mr.N.Krishna, North by : Site No.4, South by : Site No.2, Measuring East to West : 43 feet and North to South: 30 feet. **Item No.2:-** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.4, formed in Converted land of 1 Acre 24 Guntas in Sy.No.334/3, (OldSy.No.334/1), converted vide Order passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District dated 29.11.2004, bearing No.ALN (D) SR.111/2004-05, Municipal Katha No.452/3543/2/211/2/4, situated at Shanthinagara, Ward No.20, Division No.4, Devanahalli Bangalore Rural District, and bounded on: East by : 30 feet layout Road, West by : portion of the property belongs to Mr.N.Krishna, North by : Site No.4, South by : Site No.3, Measuring East to West : 43+45/2 feet and North to South: 20 ¼ feet.
Branch : Kollegal L.No: SEKLEGL0246770 Borrower: Mr. Jaya Rathnamma. P Co – Borrower: Mr. Lingaraju. M Mr. Prajwal.M.L	17.06.2020 & Rs. 4,34,071/-	All the Peace and parcel of Immovable Schedule property No. 150800301100520246,Property Katha No. 424, Situated at Gundapura Village, Singanallur Grama Panchayath, Kollegala Talluku. Measuring east to West 13.33mtr (44 feet), north to South 10.00 mtr(33 feet), Total 133.3chmtr (1452 sqft) and House Build up area 133.3 sqmtr exists. North by : House of Kamalamma, South by : Road, East by : Road, West by : Site of Puttamadaiah, Measurement : east to west 13.33 mtr, north to south 10.00 mtr Situated at within the Sub-Registration District of Hanooru and Registration District of Chamarajanagar.

Date : 22.07.2021
Place : Bangalore

Authorised Officer,
Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited.

ARULMIGU MARIAMMAN TEMPLE, SAMAYAPURAM, TRICHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT– 621 112
Telephone No : 0431 - 2670 460 E-mail : symmariamman@gmail.com

Ref.No.500/1431/C4 **PUBLIC AUCTION / TENDER NOTICE** Dated :20.07.2021

Public Auction / Tender for the collection of tonsured hair of devotees of Arulmighu Mariamman Temple Samayapuram, and its sub temple Arulmighu Adhi Mariamman Temple, Inam Samayapuram, Trichirappalli District, Tamilnadu, for Fasali 1431 (11.08.2021 to 30.06.2022) will be conducted on 06.08.2021 at 12.30 pm Mariamman Mandapam, Master plan complex Samayapuram as follows

1	Cost of Tender Form	Rs.500/- (Not Refundable) Enclose Demand draft for Rs. 500/- in favour of **"The Joint Commissioner / Executive Officer Arulmighu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram, Trichy"** with the downloaded schedule copy towards the cost of tender form.
2	Auction /Tender Deposit amount	Rs. 50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lakhs Only)
3	Date of issue of Tender forms	26.07.2021 to 05.08.2021 upto 5.45 PM (Between 10.00 AM to 5.45 PM) office working days
4	Last date for submission of Tender	06.08.2021 till 11.30AM
5	Date of Public Auction	06.08.2021 12.30 PM
6	Date and Time of opening the Tender	After Public Auction as in column 5
7	Place of Auction / Tender opening	Mariamman Mandapam (Master Plan Complex) Samayapuram.

Tender forms and Auction/ Tender conditions can be had from the temple office during office hours and also from the following websites. **1. www.samayapurammariammantemple.org 2. www.tntenders.gov.in 3. https://hrce.tn.gov.in**

DIPR/ 2189 / TENDER/2021

S.Kalyani,M.L.,
Joint Commissioner/Executive Officer/ Fit Person

EDITORIAL

"It is a very hard thing to understand, but you will come to learn in time that nothing in the universe has power over you until you allow it to exercise such a power"

Swami Vivekananda

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

SERO SURVEY OUTCOME POSITIVE, BUT NOT THE TIME TO TAKE IT EASY

The result of the fourth serological survey by the Indian Council of Medical Research is the best piece of news since March 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic began to take a heavy toll on the health and livelihood of its citizens. That nearly 68% of the population has antibodies means a large section is protected against the virus. But as ICMR chief Balram Bhargava warned, it is no cause for celebration and a reason to throw caution to the wind. There are three reasons why there is a need for continued vigilance. Firstly, about 40 crore people are still vulnerable and the spatial distribution of the antibodies may not be even across the country, making a third wave a real possibility still. Secondly, the antibodies offer only temporary protection, perhaps for only a few months. A study conducted by Italy's Padua University and Imperial College, London, in an entire Italian village showed that antibodies are present at least for nine months after infection but we still do not how long they last. Thirdly, the virus can mutate and strike anytime. The Delta variant is currently playing havoc in many countries, from Australia and Indonesia to the UK and the US, forcing authorities to lock down once again. The only way ahead is vigilance while reasonable restrictions must continue, such as a ban on large congregations.

In the meantime, the Union and state governments should face the pandemic unitedly instead of the current confrontationist rhetoric that characterises their relationship. On this aspect, the new Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya's lengthy statement to the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, which was more of an accusation against the opposition and less of a concrete plan to tackle the vaccine shortage, did little to create the expectation that he would be any different from his predecessor. Harsh Vardhan was more often countering charges of failure in handling the pandemic rather than mitigating the vaccine crisis. Mandaviya should not walk down that path, especially as he is understood to have made a good beginning in his new role. It is believed he has shown more drive and is result-oriented. He needs to concentrate more on the job at hand instead of busying himself with mainly deflecting criticism.

WELCOME LOCK ON MINING FUNDS

On July 12, the Ministry of Mines came out with an order that sought to reiterate the District Mineral Foundation's core spirit and, more importantly, the utilisation of its resources by the states. For a funds pool that stands at a staggering ₹49,000 crore and was created to better the lives of India's poorest communities dependent on natural resources in the mineral-rich districts, the ministry's notification has gone largely unnoticed. But it can have critical ramifications because by virtue of the order, the Centre almost restricts states from making sanctions or approving expenditure out of DMF. The Centre also observed that states have been found transferring DMF funds to their own treasury and consolidated funds, and even to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and other schemes. This, according to the mines ministry, is in violation of Section 9B of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act that guides the DMF. Ever since its establishment in 2015, the DMF has been portrayed as the saviour of communities—tribals mostly—that have benefitted little from mineral exploration and development in the regions they inhabit. Six years down the line, there are instances galore where DMF funds have gone to areas that have little or no bearing on the lives of the vulnerable population. Yes, there are good practices that have energised health, education and other priority sectors but equally discernible are projects that mean little to them.

The latest order by the Centre also echoes the same because putting huge financial resources to uses other than what they are mandated for defeats the whole purpose of the DMF's creation. The notification could also stir up a debate over the Centre interfering in the financial powers of the states. It is therefore important that both the Centre and states take up a joint exercise to ensure the DMF meets its objective. Mineral development comes at a huge social and environmental cost, but communities living in these ore-bearing landscapes must be the principal beneficiary of the funds because they are the ones who bear the brunt.

Humans, as beings with superior intelligence, must protect the earth and not destroy it so that our future generations can live safely. But we do the exact opposite

THE NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

AMIT BANDRE

ASHOKE K MAITRA

Founder and CEO, Sri Ramakrishna International Institute of Management

Covid-19 has brought untold misery, restrictions and financial ruin to lots of individuals and industries. Till date, we cannot move around freely. The world to a large extent has changed forever.

The pandemic appears to be in no mood to go away. Scientists are predicting worse pandemics if human beings don't change their way of living and continue to endanger the earth.

The change is needed now. Experts say that if we can live in a sustainable way for the next 10 years, perhaps we will save the earth for a hundred more. The coronavirus, a microscopic being, has brought the entire world to its knees and destroyed lives and livelihoods. It should make us humble and reduce our ego as human beings. If we keep killing bats, birds, monkeys, crocodiles, rhinos and other animals, the virus that transmits from animal to animal will transmit from animal to human beings.

We need to realise that no other animal on the planet destroys the earth. We humans with superior intelligence need to protect the earth and not destroy it so that our future generations can live safely. We do the exact opposite.

All nations, big or small, must realise that we cannot keep endangering the earth, cutting forests, killing billions of animals every year and using fossil fuels. There are 100 million different species coexisting with us on our planet. Between 10,000 and 1,00,000 species are becoming extinct each year. For instance, species of bees, which help with cross fertilisation as a result of which flowers and fruits grow, are vanishing. If we keep endangering the earth, we will not have some very essential animals, trees, fruits and flowers that help us live, breathe and eat.

We are also seeing huge climate change. The results are manifested in bushfires in Australia, the huge blazes in the West Coast of the US and even in Siberia, floods in Germany and glaciers melting. The rain forests are disappearing at a huge speed. The green cover of the earth at Amazon is in serious danger. There is increased global warming.

This is not a problem of one country. It is a global problem. It is important for the leaders of all countries to come together and create a vision for the future and a strategic plan to handle climate change, reduce inequality, control the present pandemic, avoid such health crises in the future and reduce poverty. They need to work together to ensure human rights and end wars to give peace a chance.

The refugee problem that we are witnessing all over the world is another alarming feature. Most of it is a result of poverty and wars. The refugees are citizens migrating out of desperation, just to live on the planet. If inequality persists in such an enormous proportion, then no one will be able to stop migration from less fortunate to more fortunate nations.

For every nation to live in a sustainable manner, the rich nations must provide aid to the poorer countries to build infrastructure, create educational and health facilities, and supply them with skills training and R&D to prosper.

> It is important for the leaders of all countries to come together and create a vision for the future and a strategic plan to handle climate change, reduce inequality, control the present pandemic, avoid such health crises in future and reduce poverty

At one time the US, UK and many countries of Europe had this consciousness to develop every nation. They believed that if everyone is educated and prosperous, there will be less population, less migration, less poverty and lots of happiness and peace. It was an egalitarian consciousness.

A new school of conservative economists wrote against giving aid to poor countries. Their thesis was that aid creates dependency. Sure, it will create some dependency, but it will also build capacity to develop. They created sufficient confusion for countries to reduce aid.

It is also a fact that the extremely poor are easy targets for terrorist groups and other deviant forms of congregations to enlist as cadre and use as weapons of destruction.

Another area that needs to be looked into seriously for sustainable growth is the role of industries in climate change. They need to behave in a responsible manner and not endanger the earth. Many industries all over the world like Danone, Levis, Shell, etc., have changed their practice to act responsibly and grow in a sustainable manner.

Many spiritual reformers like Sri Ramakrishna have always propagated oneness and inclusion as a way of life. He taught that all human beings of all faiths are the same. He preached serving humankind, especially the poor, as the greatest religious activity. He was a great believer in austerity and preached about consuming as much as the body needs to live well; increasing our desires and wants will only ruin the mind and create anxiety.

Jesus Christ similarly said that God made himself in the image of man and, "Love thy neighbour as thyself." When we love our neighbour we cannot be at war with them.

There needs to be much greater awareness created in schools and colleges, industries and all walks of life about spirituality, sustainable development, international peace and cooperation. We need peace and sustainability, not wars and over consumerism.

(ashoke.maitra@gmail.com)

BUILDING BRAND KERALA BRICK BY BRICK

P RAJEEVE

Minister of Industries and Law, Kerala

Kerala is an investor-unfriendly state' is a campaign that occasionally comes up and some recent unfortunate developments have triggered the debate again. Stories of bureaucratic apathy and lack of political will are floated and circulated even though there is not even an iota of truth in those.

As a government committed to the overall development of the state, we are determined to bring more investors here. During the first Pinarayi Vijayan government, Kerala introduced several initiatives for improving the ease of doing business. With the LDF government being elected to office for the second consecutive term, the stage is set for more revolutionary changes. Anyone can start a non-polluting industry with capital up to ₹10 crore without waiting for any clearance. They only need to bother about clearances after successfully completing three years. For major projects having a capital of ₹100 crore or more, all licenses should be given within seven days of submitting all documents. If the government agencies fail to issue licenses within that period, the investor can treat it as a deemed approval and go ahead with the project. In the last five years, 70,000 new MSME companies have started operations in the state.

The first Cabinet meeting after this government took over discussed a continuity plan for improving the investor-friendly image of the state. We have decided to introduce a statutory industrial grievance address mechanism and I think Kerala will be the first state to initiate such a system. A Bill to constitute state-level and district-level panels to resolve industrial disputes will be presented in the next Assembly session. The relevance of such a panel is that it will have statutory powers to deal with complaints related to various departments such as local self-government, health, fire and rescue services, factories and boilers, and legal metrology that are empowered to provide various clearance certificates for industries. The panel will have a deadline to resolve complaints and officials concerned will be held responsible for any breach of that deadline.

From August 1, we will be launching an online system for streamlining all industrial inspections. There won't be any harassment from officials in the name of inspections. We will be using artificial intelligence to shuffle and choose the team of officials who will visit a particular industry for inspection so that no prejudice or favouritism will come into play. Low-risk and medium-risk industries will be inspected online. That means such investors need to declare their compliance with rules online. Regarding high-risk industries, inspection will be conducted in randomly sampled institutions.

A new protocol to conduct preliminary investigation by a competent authority on complaints about industries will also be put in place. Only those complaints that have prima facie merit will be probed. We still have several outdated rules governing the sector. There are complaints that some officials use such irrelevant and impractical clauses to harass investors. A committee will examine all such rules and the government will initiate legislation to amend the acts concerned to weed out archaic clauses.

> From August 1, Kerala will launch an online system for streamlining industrial inspections. A new protocol to conduct preliminary investigation by a competent authority on complaints about industries will be put in place. ... Such decisions were taken through consultation with various industry bodies

All these decisions were taken through consultation with various industry bodies. In the last two months, I have convened six high-level discussions with industry leaders. These suggestions came up during the meetings and we immediately decided to act on them. In the future too, we will be working in a thoroughly democratic manner by listening to all stakeholders.

When it comes to new investments in Kerala, I don't think there is any difference of opinion even among the opposition regarding the types of industries suitable for the state. We want to create another Kerala model by promoting responsible investment. According to global statistics, one-fourth of the total industrial investment in the world last year was responsible investment. The concept of promoting Environment, Social and (Corporate) Governance investment is gathering momentum in the developed world. We also want to welcome ESG investors and are committed to providing all facilities for them.

The thrust on the knowledge economy given in the Budget is a reflection of our determination to provide a skilled workforce for knowledge-based industries. The Covid-19 pandemic has opened up new avenues of opportunity. Keralites working for different multinational companies now work from their homes in different villages and towns here. With K-FON (Kerala Fibre Optics Network) becoming a reality, high-speed internet connection will be available in all houses in the state. Thousands of educated women in Kerala now don't work due to personal inconveniences. With cheap high-speed internet connectivity becoming a right and work from home culture becoming the norm, the state's thrust on the knowledge economy will open new horizons for them. In addition to these, there are hundreds of start-ups led by young brains. Every day, we hear stories of them bringing millions of dollars of foreign investment to the state.

The LDF government doesn't believe in compromising on social security parameters to bring large-scale investment to the state. The rule of the land will be applicable to all. We have a clear road map and we know very well the value of Brand Kerala.

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Denial will not douse fire

The opposition cannot be faulted for demanding a reply from the government on the Pegasus issue as it involves national security, leave alone the right to privacy of citizens. As Israel's NSO group says it sells the software only to governments, there appears to be some substance in media reports of government involvement. If there is no truth in these, then the Centre should hold an enquiry. A simple denial will not douse the fire.

Capt Raju Mathai (Retd), Kochi

Focus on issues hurting poor

As expected, the opposition is sticking to the Pegasus row to derail proceedings in Parliament and wasting precious time and energy that could have been utilised for discussing several burning problems related to the common man. Soaring fuel prices, inflation, etc. have made lives miserable. The common people are seeking solace from the rulers. It is a pity to note that the elected representatives are failing in focusing on issues relating to the poor and instead are interested in protecting themselves.

PK Sreevalsan, Kannur

White paper on Covid deaths

This is with reference to *Oppn, govt spar over 'hiding' deaths* (July 21). With discrepancies coming to light about incorrect reporting of the number of Covid deaths across India, the government has been pushed into a corner by the combined opposition that has demanded more clarity. The onus is on the Centre to come out with a white paper on the matter after duly ascertaining the correct picture from the states.

C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Assumption mistaken

It is not fair to say that Covid deaths have been hidden, by assuming a certain number of such deaths per village. They are recorded according to guidelines provided by the WHO for certification and classification of Covid as cause of death. For instance, there should be no period of complete recovery from Covid between illness and death. So deaths during the pandemic period could not have been adduced straightaway to Covid and registered as such. To know the true level of under-registration of Covid deaths, it would be necessary to conduct an in-depth sample evaluation survey.

N Rama Rao, Chennai

Kudos to Chahar

Deepak Chahar deserves praise. He played with a lot of resolve and courage in the company of Bhuvneshwar Kumar to pull off an incredible win from a seemingly improbable position in the second ODI against Sri Lanka.

R Sivakumar, Chennai

India's bench strength

India were playing with two separate elevens in different parts of the world at the same time. While the Shikhar Dhawan-led ODI team defeated Lanka, the Rohit Sharma-led team is doing well in a first class game in England. This shows India's bench strength.

Shrey Siddharth, Cuttack

Tech alone won't help

Technology in education is no doubt a boon but complete dependency on it is not good (*How effective is technology in education?* July 19). Teaching and learning in person, with peers all around, is much better. Only using electronic gadgets can cause distractions and interfere with learning. Designing a hybrid method is the need of the hour.

K Balakrishnan, Madurai

Caste politics in K'taka

The chief ministership of Karnataka after B S Yediyurappa is a hot debate everywhere in the state. The seers of various mutts and even some Congress leaders belonging to his caste are unequivocally supporting the incumbent. The caste factor plays a vital role in every domain and is supported by rules at times. Who contests in a ward, constituency, etc., is often based on caste and not on ability, competence and social service rendered by the candidate.

Mallikarjun Sajjanar, Bagalkote

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Subramanian Swamy @Swamy39
Yeddiruppa brought BJP to power in Karnataka. Some conspired against him. Without him BJP could not return to power in the state

Nitin Gadkari @nitin_gadkari
Draft Notification has been issued declaring 'Chaurasi Koshi Parikrama Marg' as National Highway in the state of Uttar Pradesh

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
When jawans and kisans are against you, the days of an adamant government get numbered. How may days? Maybe four!

Mamata ups the ante, claims BJP making India a 'surveillance state'

Bengal CM urges top court to take suo motu cognizance of Pegasus snooping controversy

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addresses a virtual rally to mark the Trinamool Congress' Martyr's Day in Kolkata on Wednesday | PTI

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

WEST Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched a fresh attack on the Centre over the Pegasus snooping controversy on Wednesday. She alleged that BJP is trying to turn India into a state under surveillance and urged the Supreme Court to take suo motu cognizance to save democracy. Displaying her cell phone with both rear and front cameras covered by tape, she said the BJP-led government's fate should also be sealed in the 2024 general elections.

"In place of democracy, there is surveillance across the country. The BJP-led Centre is trying to turn the country into a state under surveillance. Even Supreme Court judges and their own ministers are not spared. I appeal to the judges of Supreme Court to consider taking up the Pegasus snooping issue as a suo motu case. Only judiciary can save the country," she said.

Mamata alleged that BJP used its all powers — money, mafia and muscle — to win the Bengal Assembly elections. "BJP's motto is capture elections, capture the judiciary and capture media houses. They also engaged all central agencies. Central ministers started travelling to Bengal like daily passengers. The Election Commission office acted as BJP's party office. But their efforts proved futile as the voters of Bengal refused their narrative of dividing people on the line of religion. If they think they will win elections by snooping, it will not work," she said.

The Bengal CM lambasted the saffron camp on several issues ranging from handling of Covid-19 to constant rise in petroleum products. "The way the government handled the Covid situation was a monumental failure. Four lakh people died of Covid. In Uttar Pradesh, bodies of victims were thrown into the Ganges. Bodies were recovered in Bengal and we performed cremations following all rituals. And he (Narendra Modi) labelled UP as the best state," Mamata said without mentioning the Prime Minister's name.

Hitting out at the Centre for the price of petroleum products, she urged her party workers to stage protests. "The Centre earned ₹3.7 lakh crore from petroleum products which came from the pocket of the common people. Where has the PM Cares fund gone?"

Taking a jibe at Modi's Mann Ki Baat, Mamata said, "*Mohabbat kaam se hote hain, mann ki baat se nehin* (work is done with love, not with Mann Ki Baat). If the event was for the betterment of people, it would have been alright. But if it is aimed at serving political purposes, it will not work."

Two dead returning from screening of TMC rally

A TMC supporter died of gun shot and an elderly woman fell victim of a stampede in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, while returning from the screening of Mamata Banerjee's virtual address at the party's Martyr's Day rally. Police are yet to ascertain whether this was a fallout of the ruling party's infighting. "Suddenly there was firing. The woman died in the stampede that followed," police said.

COVID TRACKER

1.34% NATIONAL FATALITY RATE

2.27% NATIONAL POSITIVITY RATE

97.36% NATIONAL RECOVERY RATE

4,07,170 Active cases

1,040 Increase in active cases

18,52,140 Tests on Tuesday

43,99,298 Jabs on Tuesday

Source: Union Health Ministry

Treatment cost 'enormous'

New Delhi: A study to analyse the burden of Covid-19 treatment on the working population in India has estimated that the medical cost of treatment is "enormous and unsustainable". Researchers associated with Public Health Foundation of India and Duke Global Health Institute found that the average cost of home isolation was `829 while a 10 days in isolation in a private facility was `67,470 and admission to ICU cost `1,28,110. It was estimated that to afford hospital isolation, regular employees would need to spend the equivalent of 124 days of wages while self-employed and casual workers would spend 170 days, and 257 days, respectively.

Production of Covaxin remains below target

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

LESS than 5.5 crore doses of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin has been supplied for India's Covid-19 vaccination programme till mid-July. Data shows that on an average, the country received less than 1 crore doses per month of the indigenous vaccine so far.

In response to a Parliament question on Tuesday, the Union health ministry said that till July 16, 5.45 crore doses of Covaxin, co-developed by ICMR, had been available for public use as against 36.01 crore doses of Covishield, manufactured by Serum Institute of India.

Low supply of Covaxin has remained a concern despite earlier claims by the government that nearly 10 crore doses may be produced from September, which will help it meet the target of vaccinating all adults by year end.

In response to a separate question, the ministry also informed the Rajya Sabha that the Hyderabad-based vaccine maker aims to increase the production capacity of Covaxin to 5.8 crore doses per month from the existing 2.5 crore.

Despite an earlier explanation offered by the company on a 120-day production cycle, many experts have pointed out that the pace of releasing vaccine for consumption has been rather slow.

VK Paul, member, health (Niti Aayog) who also heads the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19, said on Tuesday that as part of Bharat Biotech's expansion plan for Covaxin production, it has added its facilities in Ankleshwar in Gujarat and Bengaluru, apart from the already functional Hyderabad facility that is producing the vaccine. "The Ankleshwar plant is moving towards production as per the original schedule, but the Bengaluru facility faced some difficulties in operationalisation that led to the lag in Covaxin supplies," he said.

Paul added that the production fell slightly behind of what was initially expected but now, the company has informed that glitches have been sorted. "These are unforeseen circumstances that crop up while executing such highly technical projects. But now they are on track," he said.

A woman takes the shot in New Delhi on Wednesday | SHEKHAR YADAV

NO COMMENTS FROM US, BRITISH MISSIONS

New Delhi: Reacting to their officials allegedly being named as potential targets for snooping by Israeli spyware Pegasus, the US embassy and the British High Commission in the capital said they could not comment on specific details related to security issues. "We do not discuss security protocols, procedures, or capabilities. We cannot comment on the specific details of any threats to our personnel or the steps we take to address them," a US embassy spokesperson said. A spokesperson for British High Commission said their mission will not be getting into speculation around individual cases on this issue.

Editors Guild wants SC-monitored probe in snooping on journalists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Editors Guild of India has expressed 'shock' over reports of surveillance on journalists and politicians using the Pegasus spyware. In a statement on Wednesday, the Guild demanded an independent Supreme Court-monitored probe of the incident.

"The Editors Guild of India is shocked by media reports on the widespread surveillance, allegedly mounted by government agencies, on journalists, civil society activists, businessmen and politicians, using a hacking software known as Pegasus, created and developed by the Israeli company NSO," the Guild said.

It added that the reports published worldwide over the last few days by a consortium of 17 publications point towards surveillance by multiple governments across the world. "Since NSO claims that it only sells this software to government clients vetted by the government of Israel, it deepens suspicion of involvement of Indian government agencies in snooping on its own citizens," it said.

An international media consortium recently reported that over 300 verified mobile phone numbers, including of two ministers, over 40 journalists, three opposition leaders besides scores of business persons and activists in India could have been targeted for hacking using the spyware.

The Guild condemned surveillance on journalists. "While some of the instances of surveillance might have been targeted against those who may be seen as credible national security threats, what is disturbing is that a large number of such targets were journalists and civil society activists. This is a brazen and unconstitutional attack on freedom of speech and press."

The Guild said this suggests journalism and political dissent are 'now equated with 'terror'. "How can a democracy survive if governments do not make an effort to protect freedom of speech?"

Raj Cong says Pegasus proved Raje is sidelined

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE 'Pegasus' snooping row has provided Rajasthan Congress more ammunition to fire at the BJP with reports emerging that the mobile phone of former CM **Vasundhara Raje's** personal secretary too was targetted for hacking.

State Congress chief G S Dotasra said the "snooping" incident indicated how the Modi-Shah duo was trying to sideline Raje. While the BJP and the Raje camp are silent over the issue, many party leaders argue that the state Congress has no moral right to comment on the Pegasus issue until Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot reveals details of phone-tapping of MLAs in the state.

The name of Raje's personal secretary is on the list of 300 verified Indian numbers allegedly targeted for surveillance during 2017-19 through the Pegasus spyware. The ruling Congress is keen to revive the theory that all is not well between Raje and the BJP's state leadership.

Dotasra said at a press conference in Jaipur that an investigation should be initiated against Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "circumstantial evidence" suggested that Pegasus-snooping could have been carried out only with the concurrence of those sitting in top offices of power. "Those in the high echelons of power have committed an illegal and anti-national act as exposed by the Pegasus episode," Dotasra said.

"They have not spared anyone. They spied on their own leaders, while conspiring to completely finish the Opposition, " Dotasra said.

While the Raje camp or the BJP has given no official response, deputy leader of the Opposition Rajendra Rathore has tried to defend the Union government by targeting the Gehlot government over the phone tapping row in July last year when Sachin Pilot had rebelled against the top brass.

During that period, some audio clips of phone conversations purportedly between Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and a few Congress MLAs had come out. Congress leaders from the Gehlot camp had alleged that the chats revealed that BJP leaders were indulging in horse-trading to topple the Rajasthan government. However, the BJP has alleged that this incident implies that phones of MLAs in the state are being tapped.

BJP and Oppn spar over 'no oxygen shortage death' claim

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for team spirit in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, the Opposition and BJP were caught in a verbal feud over the government claim in Parliament that there had been no death due to the lack of oxygen.

Shiv Sena suggested people should take the government to court over the "claim". The BJP defended itself, saying that the Centre had made the statement on the basis of data provided by the state governments. While leaders of the Opposition parties slammed the Centre for the statement made in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, BJP in a press meet said on Wednesday that no state officially reported of such fatalities, with health being a state subject.

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut said people who lost their near ones due to oxygen shortage during the second wave should "take the Union government to court". He added there were many deaths in several states due to oxygen shortage.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also hit out at the Centre, alleging that Covid-19 fatalities were accounted for by the government decision to increase oxygen exports in the pandemic year, while not making transportation arrangements within the country. "Deaths took place because the government increased oxygen exports by about 700 per cent in the pandemic year," she said.

Sanjay Raut

Meenakshi Lekhi

CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury tweeted: "Shameful! No deaths due to lack of oxygen! Governance of deceit, Modi style!" Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia said the city government is ready for probe into such deaths if the Centre gives its nod to form a panel.

Union minister and BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi asked Rout to provide details of deaths caused by the lack of oxygen in Maharashtra, including Mumbai, and also from Delhi, saying that the capital was the epicentre of the second wave of the pandemic. She accused the Shiv Sena leader of double standards.

Former Chhatishgarh chief minister and BJP vice-president Raman Singh hit out at Congress, saying there had been deaths of children due to lack of oxygen in his state. "Will Rahul Gandhi seek explanations from the Chhattishgarh CM," he asked.

Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Bharati Praveen Pawar had kicked off the storm by telling Rajya Sabha states did not report deaths caused by shortage of oxygen.

EXPRESS READ

Jaishankar's chat with Iranian counterpart

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday held a telephonic conversation with his Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif amid the escalation of violence by the Taliban in Afghanistan, following withdrawal of US soldiers from the war-torn country. "Good to talk to Iranian FM @JZarif. A productive conversation on our ties," Jaishankar tweeted. This is significant as Iran and Afghanistan are India's partners in the Chabahar Port. Instability in Afghanistan risks its operations.

Advisory groups to resolve aviation issues

New Delhi: The Civil Aviation Ministry has formed three advisory groups comprising airlines, airport operators, cargo carriers, ground handling companies, flying training organisations and maintenance, repair and overhaul companies to resolve challenges faced by the sector. Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia is the chairman of all three committees. The groups will meet once every month to sort out regulatory or financial issues. The aviation sector has ben badly hit by the pandemic.

RESPONSIBILITY EXPLAINED

Even if vehicle is rented, insurer liable to pay for accident: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court has ruled that when a transport corporation hires a vehicle for use from its registered owner, third-party insurance coverage will also deemed to be transferred along with the vehicle. The person in effective control and command of the vehicle will be regarded as the 'owner'. Therefore, along with the vehicle, it must be deemed that the existing insurance policy also remains transferred for the period of hire.

Overturning a judgement of the Allahabad High Court, a bench of Justices S Abdul Naseer and Krishna Murari was deciding on the scenario that if an insured vehicle is plying under an agreement with the corporation and in case of any accident during that period, whether the insurance company would be liable to pay compensation or would it be the responsibility of the corporation or the owner.

The case pertains to the Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation that hired a bus which met with an accident resulting in the death of one person. Heirs of the deceased raised a claim petition before the Motor Accident Claim Tribunal wherein the corporation filed its written statement that the contract between the corporation and the bus owner as well as the factum of insurance was with the insurance company.

The company filed its response admitting the existence of the policy with respect to the said bus. The Tribunal ruled that the insurance company is liable and directed it to pay a compensation of ₹1,82,000. The insurance company challenged this order in Allahabad High Court challenging the order.

The high court held that insurance companies are not liable to pay compensation to third parties in the event of buses being operated under the control of the corporation. After that, the corporation filed an appeal in Supreme Court.

The top court held that effective control and command is the real test of ownership. Thereby under a hire agreement, the insurance policy is deemed to be transferred along with the vehicle. "It will be deemed that the vehicle was transferred along with the insurance policy in existence to the corporation and thus insurance company would not be able to escape its liability to pay the amount of compensation."

HEAVY RAINS PREDICTED

Heavy rainfall is expected to continue over west and central India over the next three-four days, while the intensity of precipitation over north India is likely to decrease, the India Meteorological Department said on Wednesday

7 VILLAGERS ABDUCTED BY NAXALS RELEASED IN CHHATTISGARH

Ahmedabad	36	28	Mumbai	29	27
Bhopal	28	23	Panaji	28	23
Jaipur	33	26	Patna	34	27
Amritsar	31	26	Lucknow	31	28
Chennai	33	27	Port Blair	29	24
Kolkata	32	27	Imphal	32	22
Srinagar	26	18	Chandigarh	33	25

Newly-appointed Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu along with party leaders, offers prayer at the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Wednesday | PTI

High alert in Jammu amid warnings of attack

Intelligence inputs claim three Lashkar terrorists have crossed the border, plans to stage attack targeting forces

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

SECURITY forces have been put on a high alert in Jammu and Kashmir after multiple inputs about a possible attack targeting security forces amid Id-ul-Zuha.

According to one of the intelligence inputs, terrorists belonging to the Lashkar-e-Taiba have succeeded in infiltrating into Jammu.

Multiple sources confirmed that the forces are on high alert and have been asked to maintain a vigil around garrisons. Quick Reaction Teams will stay prepared to deal with any contingencies. "In view of the credible inputs of infiltration into Jammu sector and the likelihood of target of security forces' installations and moving convoys, no movement of vehicles and personnel outside garrisons (except in an emergency, duly approved by Station Commanders) was planned on 21 July," the sources said.

"Credible inputs suggest that three Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists have successfully infiltrated into our side from the RS Pura Sector, Jammu in the intervening night of 14/15 of July." One of the terrorists got injured while trying to cross the International Border.

> **In view of the security alert, a high degree of vigilance will be observed for the next 48 hrs and all residents have been asked to avoid venturing outside the cantonment**
>
> Sources

As per the assessment of the agencies, "The aim of the infiltrated group is to target vital installations in Satwari, in the coming days. Satwari is the area in proximity of the Jammu airport.

There have also been warnings that the terrorists may install Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) on the Jammu Srinagar highway with an aim to target the forces.

"In view of the security alert, a high degree of vigilance will be observed for the next 48 hrs and all residents have been requested to avoid venturing outside the cantonment as a precautionary step," sources added.

Security forces based in Jammu have been the target of terrorists for the last few years with multiple attacks directed at them, including the June 27 drone attack.

In show of strength, Sidhu meets 62 MLAs; pressure mounts on Capt

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

IN a show of strength, the newly-appointed Punjab Congress President Navjot Singh Sidhu gathered 62 Congress MLAs at his residence in Amritsar on Wednesday, including four cabinet ministers.

Sidhu will formally take charge of the state Congress unit at a function held in Chandigarh on Friday.

> **Today, entire Punjab wants him (Sidhu). There is great enthusiasm among party workers after Sidhu's elevation. Our vote share will certainly go up**
>
> Madan Lal Jalalpur, Congress MLA

Three of the four ministers who visited Sidhu's residence—Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa and Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria had helped topple then Punjab Congress chief Partap Singh Bajwa in 2015 by siding with Amarinder. Charanjit Singh Channi is the other cabinet minister who went to Sidhu's house.

Meanwhile, with his loyalists meeting Sidhu, pressure mounted on CM Capt Amarinder Singh to meet his former protégé. A few party leaders have urged him patch up with Sidhu. "If Amarinder can meet Partap Singh Bajwa and Sukhpal Singh Khaira, who had also passed personal comments on him, then he should also meet and pardon Sidhu. We will not allow anyone to split the party," Randhawa said.

Pargat Singh, an MLA, questioned the chief minister's decision to demand an apology from Sidhu at a time when people are giving him a rousing welcome.

On differences between Sidhu and Amarinder, MLA Madan Lal Jalalpur said, "There is no need for Sidhu to apologise. He is now the president of the State Congress unit. Why should he apologise? It is right that he should respect the Chief Minister, but for what should he apologise? The Chief Minister should welcome Sidhu with open arms. The CM also met Pratap Singh Bajwa who had been speaking against him. Amarinder's advisers are not guiding him properly."

Jalalpur added that Congress will win next year's Assembly elections because of Sidhu.

"Today, entire Punjab wants him. There is great enthusiasm among party workers after Sidhu's elevation. Our vote share will certainly go up," he said.

FORGOTTEN ROAD TALKING POINT IN CRACK SHOOTER'S VILLAGE

ANURAAG SINGH @ Lucknow

KALINA is a village in Meerut district of western Uttar Pradesh. Well known in immediate vicinities, the village could soon become a household name in India, if its favourite son finishes on the podium at the Tokyo Olympics. Kalina is home to pistol shooter Saurabh Chaudhary, one of the country's brightest medal prospects at the Games.

Pistol shooter Saurabh Chaudhary with Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Residents of Kalina will root for the Youth Olympics and junior world championship gold medallist not only because he is one of them. They will pray for his success also because if he wins a medal on the biggest stage, a long-standing demand of the villagers may become a reality. The village has a brick road running through it, a lifeline of sorts, which needs attention. Promises of making it a concrete stretch after Chaudhary won gold at the 2018 Asian Games have not been fulfilled. After repeated unsuccessful requests, villagers have got so fed up that they have stopped reminding the district administration of the assurance it had given.

"Three years back, when Saurabh won gold medal at Asian Games, he was felicitated. At the function, the then Sub Divisional Magistrate announced a proper concrete road, which is yet to be delivered. Every resident of this village, which houses around 2,800 voters, is praying for a gold for Saurabh. His Olympic glory might finally break the slumber of the local administration and get us a proper concrete road," said newly-elected village pradhan Manoj Kumar.

PODIUM TO BETTER LIFE PART-4

Kalina has a population of about 4,500 and for every journey outside the village they have to use this road. It is used also for intra-village travel. The one kilometre stretch which looks like a cobbled alley was built four or five decades ago. There has been no maintenance or repairing at regular intervals and currently the road is in bad shape due to the monsoon. Villagers have no option but to use it and there have been reports of minor mishaps and people suffering injuries.

"Our village has given many of its sons to the Indian army. We also produced district and state level kabbadi and volleyball players. The rise of Saurabh has given our village a new identity. His success at the Olympics might finally lead to the road being upgraded. It is vital for us, as it connects the entrance and exit points of the village. Even the best of SUVs struggle on that stretch," said social activist and Saurabh's distant relative Satbir Singh.

Saurabh's farmer father Jagmohan Singh Siwach is also disappointed that the village has not got the promised road. "I still remember, the then Sub Divisional Magistrate announcing a proper road to connect the entry and exits of the village to mark Saurabh's Asian Games success. But fulfilment of that promise remains a pipe dream. Villagers have to face great difficulty, particularly during the rainy season while travelling on this road."

The village has grand plans of watching Saurabh in action in Tokyo. "We're planning to put up a big screen outside Saurabh's house for live telecast of our village hero's Olympic journey. The public address system I use to convey important information to villagers at the main points in the village will be used for live commentary of Saurabh's event. We're sure Saurabh will come home with gold," said village pradhan Kumar. *(Concluded)*

CAA won't harm Muslims, says Bhagwat

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

RASHTRIYA Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat on Wednesday said the Citizenship (Amendment) Act or the National Register of Citizens (NRC) will not bring any losses to the Muslims in India.

"CAA and NRC (National Register of Citizens) are not against Indian citizens. The Muslims in India are not going to suffer from any loss due to CAA," Bhagwat said.

He was speaking at a book launch event in Guwahati.

The RSS chief said there are several methods for a country or a government to know its citizens and the NRC was one of them.

"This (NRC) is not against anybody. NRC was made a Hindu-Muslim issue, but it is not," Bhagwat said. He added that a communal narrative was being peddled by some to gain political mileage.

Baghwat said the founding fathers of India's Constitution were liberal and secular in nature. "Secularism, democracy and pluralism are integral to our culture," the RSS leaders said.

Anger over Centre not sharing OBC data

SUDHIR SURYAWAMSHI @ Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA'S OBC leaders on Wednesday attacked the Centre over its decision not to share OBC population data with Maharashtra government.

The data is being sought to allow the Maharashtra government to determine the quantum of reservation for the OBC community in the local bodies.

Vijay Wadettiwar, an OBC leader and a Congress minister in Uddhav Thackeray's government alleged that the BJP-led Central government does not want the OBCs to get reservations in the local body elections. He called the Centre move "anti-OBC".

He said the BJP-led Central government has clarified its stance on the question of OBC reservations in the local bodies. "It is now clear that the BJP is against giving reservations to OBCs in the local bodies," the Congress minister said.

The apex court had directed the state government to appoint a commission to determine the population of the OBC communities and their backwardness, based on which quotas can be fixed for them. However, OBC leaders say, this means no seat is going to be reserved for the OBC community in the upcoming local body elections as it would take time for the government to collect population data. "If the state government starts the survey now, it will take time to collect information. Besides, amid the pandemic, it will be difficult to conduct door to door survey. The Centre has data, but don't want to share it," NCP minister Chhagan Bhujbal said.

Maha demands power for states to make or extend reservations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA government has demanded that the Centre make changes to the 102nd amendment to the Constitution to give the right to respective state governments to extend the cap of reservations given to various communities.

The state's Maha Vikas Aghadi government had passed resolutions in the recently-concluded Monsoon session, urging the Centre to delegate the right to give and modify reservations to respective states governments.

Maratha is a very significant community in terms of electoral politics. They account for 35 per cent of the state's population.

Congress minister and chairman of cabinet sub-committee for Maratha reservations Ashok Chavan said he is in Delhi to raise the issue in the ongoing session of Parliament.

He said the Supreme Court has ruled that the power to make reservations lies with the Centre. Therefore the Centre must give reservation for the Marathas or make changes to the 102nd amendment and allow the states to do so.

EXPRESS READ

Modi to inaugurate 9 med colleges in UP

Lucknow: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate nine medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh on July 30, the state government said in a statement on Wednesday. Aimed at providing better health facilities to people of Uttar Pradesh, the nine medical colleges will be made functional by July-end, the statement said. The PM will inaugurate the colleges, located in nine districts, from Siddharth Nagar district

Three more Rafale jets arrive in India

New Delhi: A seventh batch of three more Rafale fighter jets arrived in India after flying non-stop for a distance of almost 8,000 km from France, in a further boost to the strike capability of the Indian Air Force. The new batch of the aircraft will be part of the air force's second squadron of the Rafale jets. The aircraft were provided mid-air refuelling by the air force of the United Arab Emirates.

₹200 cr package to help those affected by cancellation of Char Dham Yatra

VINEETH UPADHYAY @ Dehradun

TO compensate for the economic loss due to cancellation of the Char Dham Yatra for the second consecutive year, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Wednesday announced a relief package worth around ₹200 crore, which will benefit over 1.63 lakh people in the state.

"This pandemic has affected people associated with Char Dham Yatra and other touristic activities adversely. We have decided to transfer money directly into the accounts of the affected people. We will also provide relief by cutting down the license fees for various activities," said the CM who was visiting the villages devastated by Sunday's heavy rains in Uttarkashi.A list of beneficiaries from 13 districts of the state has been prepared by various departments of the state government. A total of 1,63,661 people will receive direct cash transfer. These include boatmen, artists, tour guides, drivers, conductors and many others.

Those in the list will get a financial assistance of ₹2,000-₹10,000 per month for six months.

Meanwhile, taking note of the dissatisfaction of priests from Char Dham Shrines-Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri--the chief minister constituted a high-powered committee to look into the law pertaining to the formation of Char Dham Devsthanam Board.

The chief minister met families of those killed in rains. "I have instructed all the district magistrates to stay ready with their teams 24x7 in case any natural calamity hits us," he said.

Permission must to collect *Gangajal*

Dehradun: Uttarakhand government has made it mandatory to get permission from the Haridwar district administration to get Gangajal from the holy river. Haridwar district administration and the state police department said joint meetings have been held with officials from the neighboring Uttar Pradesh on the issue. V Murugeshan, additional director general of police (Law & Order) said, "Permission will be needed if the Kanwar groups want to fetch Gangajal from Ganga in Haridwar. Those gaining entry in the holy city without permission will be quarantined for 14 days." The state police will deploy special officers to counsel yatris who arrive at the border and convince them to return. Meanwhile, Har Ki Pauri Ghat has also been closed to Kanwar pilgrims.

Flight operations gather pace at Ranchi airport

With a decline in the number of fresh Covid-19 cases, flight operations at Birsa Munda International Airport in Ranchi has picked up pace. On an average, about 15 flights take off from or land at the airport on a daily basis. The airport typically welcomes around 2,500 passengers every day. The passengers' arrival-departure data between July 7 and 14 shows during the one-week period close to 28,000 passengers used the airport. During the same period, about 220 flight operations were recorded. Flight services during this period linked Ranchi to other cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Patna, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Chennai.

RANCHI DIARY

MUKESH RANJAN
Our correspondent in Jharkhand
mukesh.r@newindianexpress.com

More vaccine storage with addition of two coolers

Director of National Health Mission (NHM) Umashankar Singh inaugurated two new walk-in coolers at the NHM's vaccine storage facility in Namkum. According to Singh, the new walk-in coolers will double the vaccine storage capacity of Jharkhand and help the state intensify its vaccination drive against Covid-19. Earlier, NHM Jharkhand's vaccine storage facility had three walk-in coolers of 16 cubic meter capacity, each of which could store a maximum of 10 lakh vaccine doses at a time. The new walk-in coolers are 40 cubic meters in size and each of them can accommodate at least six lakh vaccine doses. Together they can accomodate 12 lakh doses and will help the state ramp up the vaccination drive.

NML signs MoU on e-waste recycling

National Metallurgical Laboratory (NML) has signed an MoU with M/s Metaore Recycler Pvt Ltd., Kolkata to transfer technology of e-waste recycling to the latter. NML has transferred a number of technologies to the national and international industries and research organisations. M/s Metaore Recycling Pvt Ltd., Kolkata will process non-ferrous, precious metals. Apart from that, they will recycle all the materials present in it, based on a zero-waste concept. Metaore recycling plant will be the first plant in eastern India which will work on the zero-waste concept.

Shravani Mela cancelled due to Covid-19

Shravani Mela at Deoghar, which was supposed to start on July 25, will not be held this year as well. According to Deoghar Deputy Commissioner Manjunath Bhajantari, the decision is in view of the pandemic. The authorities have appealed to devotees to stay in their homes and offer prayers to Lord Shiva. A website is being readied to help the devotees offer online prayers. An online-portal, 'Deoghar Mart,' is also being developed through which one can order *prasad*. It will also provide a platform for local vendors to do their business.

8,452
undocumented migrants have reached UK this year in small boats compared with 8,417 people in 2020

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	36	21	HR	Los Angeles	31	20	LC
Colombo	29	26	LC	Melbourne	11	6	LC
Dhaka	33	27	TDS	Moscow	22	14	SNY
Dubai	42	34	SNY	New York	29	19	LC
Houston	33	26	TDS	Singapore	31	27	LC
Istanbul	27	22	SNY	Toronto	25	17	LC
London	28	15	SNY	Washington	29	19	LC

President Xi Jinping deploys army to rescue those trapped in inundated subways, hotels and public places | China's military has blasted a dam to release floodwaters threatening one of the most populated provinces | It is estimated to be the heaviest rainfall in 1,000 years in central China. 1.6 lakh people evacuated

25 dead, 1 mn affected as rain pounds China

BEIJING

CHINA'S military blasted a damaged dam to divert the surging waters of a flooded river as 25 people, including 12 subway passengers, were killed when the heaviest rainfall in 1,000 years hit central Henan province, official media reports said on Wednesday.

A total of 1.24 million (12.4 lakh) people were affected and 1,60,000 evacuated, state-run Global Times reported.

The Army sent its troops early on Tuesday morning to a damaged dike in Yichuan county to explode it to divert the floodwater, state-run China Daily reported.

A total of 75 soldiers and soldiers of an engineering chemical defence brigade under the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Theatre Command completed the task of blasting and diverting the floodwater from the dam of Yihetan in Yichuan County at about 6 am and started follow-up rescue operations, China News Network reported.

The official media quoted local authorities as saying that 25 people were killed and seven others listed missing in the massive floods.

Twelve people were killed and five others injured when subway stations were hit by the floods, the report said. The victims died when their subway train was hit with rapidly rising floodwaters on Tuesday night, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported. Two people were killed when a wall collapsed.

The massive floods, described by meteorologists as a once-in-a-lifetime event, has resulted in apocalyptic scenes in the provincial capital Zhengzhou, a metropolis of 12.6 million, with its public avenues and subway tunnels getting submerged with surging waters.

People look out at cars floating in floodwaters after heavy rains hit the city of Zhengzhou in China's central Henan province on Wednesday | AFP

People walk through floodwaters along a street in Zhengzhou on Tuesday | AP

Photo shared by a Weibo user shows people inside a submerged subway car in Zhengzhou in China's central Henan province | AFP

Widespread damage

Body for cultural heritage warned some key heritage sites had suffered damage, including the Shaolin temple and the Longmen Grottoes, a UNESCO heritage site of stone Buddhist carvings dating back to the fifth century. Henan is the birthplace of traditional Chinese martial arts, and home to many kung fu academies.

We must take solid measures to assist those affected by the floods, and strengthen hygiene and disease control so as to ward off epidemics
Xi Jinping, President

Videos posted on the Chinese social media showed petrified passengers trapped in subway trains clinging on to handlebars desperately waiting for help as floodwaters raised up to their necks.

Official media released videos of rescue workers helping people stuck in subway tunnels to safety. Videos showed people trying to wade through floods in the downtown of the city while scores of cars and other vehicles washed away. Some videos also showed people falling into the massive cave-ins of the roads.

Rainwater poured into the subway tunnel of the city's Line Five, trapping an unknown number of passengers aboard a subway train.

Terming the flood situation as grim, Chinese President Xi Jiping ordered the deployment of the Army and said authorities at all levels must give top priority to ensuring people's safety and property as massive floods ravaged the province and Zhengzhou city.

The PLA Central Theatre Command urgently dispatched troops to a county in rain-hit Henan where a dam is under threat of collapse due to serious damage caused by the rains, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The PLA, on its social media account on Sina Weibo -- China's Twitter-like social media platform, said a 20-metre-long crevasse had appeared in the dam in Yichuan county of Henan province, and could collapse any time.

The downtown area of Zhengzhou received an average precipitation of 457.5 mm within 24 hours on Tuesday, the highest daily rainfall since the weather record began, Xinhua reported.

Henan is home to many cultural sites and a major base for industry and agriculture. Reports said Shaolin Temple, known for its Buddhist monks' mastery of martial arts, was also severely hit by the floods.

Heavy waterlogging has led to the virtual paralysis of the city's road traffic.

Over 80 bus lines have been suspended, more than 100 temporarily detoured and the subway service has also been temporarily suspended.

Police officers, firefighters and workers from the local sub-district have arrived at the site for the rescue operation, the report said.

The water level inside the subway carriage is receding, and the passengers are temporarily safe, it said.

More than 160 train services were stopped at Zhengzhoudong Railway Station. The airport in Zhengzhou cancelled 260 flights into and out of the city.

Affected by the rainstorms, several residential communities in the city are without tap water and electricity. *PTI*

A woman throws away rubbish in the centre of Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler, Germany, as volunteers clear debris after last week's devastating floods | AP/PTI

Germany okays $472-mn immediate relief package

BERLIN

GERMANY'S Cabinet on Wednesday approved a roughly 400 million-euro ($472 million) package of immediate aid for flood victims and vowed to start quickly on rebuilding devastated areas, a task whose cost is expected to be well into the billions.

Finance Minister Olaf Scholz said the package, financed half by Chancellor Angela Merkel's federal government and half by Germany's state governments, to help people deal with the immediate aftermath of last week's flooding would increase if more money is needed.

"We will do what is necessary to help everyone as quickly as possible," Scholz said.

At least 171 people were killed in Germany, well over half of them in Ahrweiler county, near Bonn. when small rivers swelled quickly into raging torrents on Wednesday and Thursday following persistent downpours. Another 31 died in neighbouring Belgium, bringing the death toll in both countries to 202.

Germany has recent experience with major floods that hit swaths of the country, particularly the east, in 2002 and 2013. They caused extensive and costly damage.

Scholz said the government aid for rebuilding after the 2013 floods has totaled around 6 billion euros ($7 billion) so far. "The pledge we want to give now is that this help with rebuilding can begin straight away...so that everything necessary can be done to restore infrastructure, damaged houses, damaged schools, hospitals, put in order anything that was destroyed there." *AP*

Dutch flood damage pegged at $470 mn

The Hague: Flooding that raged through a southern Dutch tourist town last week caused around 400 million euros ($470 million) in damage to homes and businesses, the town's mayor said Wednesday. About 700 homes in Valkenburg were so badly damaged by flooding that their owners will have to seek temporary accommodation while they are repaired, mayor Daan Prevoo said. The southern Dutch province of Limburg was hit with the most severe flooding in decades late last week, as authorities closely monitored dikes and levees strained almost to breaking point by swollen rivers and inundated flood plains. *AP*

Former Pak diplomat's daughter murdered in Islamabad, 1 arrested

ISLAMABAD

A FORMER Pakistani diplomat's daughter has been murdered here, according to a media report on Wednesday, just days after a major diplomatic row broke out between Pakistan and Afghanistan over the alleged abduction of the daughter of Afghanistan's Ambassador in Islamabad.

Noor Mukadam, 27, daughter of Shaukat Mukadam, was found dead in the capital's upscale Sector F-7/4 area on Tuesday, Dawn newspaper reported. Mukadam has in the past served as Pakistan's ambassador to South Korea and Kazakhstan.

"Noor was first shot at and then was slaughtered," Samaa TV quoted the investigating officer as saying. Another persona was also injured in the attack, the channel reported.

A friend of Noor has been arrested in connection to the murder, police said.

Noor Mukadam | SOURCE: TWITTER

"A man named Zahir Jaffer, who was allegedly involved in the murder, was arrested on the spot and taken to the police station," Samaa TV quoted the Islamabad police as saying.

The killing comes as a storm brews over the safety of diplomatic missions and its personnel in Pakistan.

On July 16, Silsila Alikhil, the 26-year-old daughter of Afghanistan's ambassador to Pakistan Najibullah Alikhil, was briefly abducted from Islamabad and tortured, the Afghanistan Foreign office said in a statement last week.

The incident triggered a major diplomatic row between the two neighbouring nations, which are coping with the resurgence of the Taliban as the US and NATO reach the final phase of their troop pull-out operation.

An investigation into the alleged kidnapping of the Afghan ambassador's daughter has found no evidence of an abduction, Pakistan's interior minister said Tuesday.

"There is no case of kidnapping," Pakistan's interior minister Sheikh Rashid told reporters at a press conference, adding that investigators had watched 700 hours of CCTV footage and searched 200 taxis.

He said the incident was being used as a way to "defame our country". *Agencies*

ASIA MATTERS

MYANMAR

Junta again seeks to replace UN envoy

UN: Myanmar's military rulers are again seeking to replace the country's ambassador to the United Nations, who opposed their February 1 coup. ouster of civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin says in a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres that he has appointed Aung Thurein, who left the military this year after 26 years, as Myanmar's UN ambassador. Lwin said Kyaw Moe Tun, Myanmar's currently recognised UN ambassador, "has been terminated on February 27, 2021, due to abuses of his assigned duty and mandate". In a dramatic speech to a General Assembly meeting on Myanmar on February 26 -- weeks after the military takeover -- Tun appealed for "the strongest possible action from the international community" to restore democracy to the country. *AP*

CHINA

Dissenting teen on the run with fiancee

Kiev: A teenager who says he's a US permanent resident and his fiancee are once again on the run from the threat of extradition to their homeland, China, in a sign of Beijing's lengthening reach over perceived dissidents abroad. Chinese officials had sought Wang Jingyu, a 19-year-old student, over his online comments about deadly border clashes between Chinese and Indian forces last year. He was arrested by police in Dubai while transferring for a flight to the US in early April. *AP*

HONG KONG

Police detain 3 former Apple Daily editors

Hong Kong: Police detained two former senior staff of shuttered pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily on Wednesday, shortly after they arrested the paper's former executive editor-in-chief. Local media reported that the paper's former deputy chief editor Chan Pui-man and managing editor Fung Wai-kong, who had already been arrested for "colluding with foreign forces", were detained again while on police bail. Former executive editor-in-chief Lam Man-chung was detained on Wednesday morning. In two statements, police confirmed the arrest of a 51-year-old former newspaper editor for "collusion with foreign forces", a national security crime, and the withdrawal of bail for a 51-year-old woman and a 57-year-old man. Lam is the eighth staff of Apple Daily arrested within a month. *AFP*

100 kidnapped victims released in Nigeria

LAGOS

GUNMEN in northwest Nigeria have released 100 kidnapped victims, many of them nursing mothers and children, who had been held captive for about six weeks.

Police spokesman in Zamfara State, Mohammed Shehu, said Wednesday that the victims had been abducted from Manawa village on June 8.

The government "successfully secured the unconditional release of the victims" without paying any ransom, he said.

Armed gangs operate in Zamfara and other states in northwestern and north-central Nigeria. The bandits who normally kidnap for ransom are blamed for the recent spate of mass abductions of schoolchildren in northern Nigeria.

About 800 children have been abducted from their schools since February when 27 boys and some teachers were taken from a college in Kagara, in Niger state. *AFP*

Haiti installs new leader as country mourns slain prez

PORT-AU-PRINCE

HAITI'S government installed a new prime minister, while officials mourned assassinated President Jovenel Moise and arrested at least three police officers implicated in his killing.

Designated Prime Minister Ariel Henry was sworn in on Tuesday to replace interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph, who assumed leadership of Haiti with the backing of police and the military after the July 7 attack at Moise's private home, which also badly injured his wife and stunned the nation of more than 11 million people.

Ariel Henry

"The task that awaits us is complex and difficult," Henry said as he called for unity and promised to meet with various sectors in the upcoming days to build consensus. "I'm from a school that believes in dialogue."

He also thanked "sister nations" that he didn't identify for their solidarity and expertise in the ongoing investigation as he demanded that all those responsible be brought to justice.

Henry, a neurosurgeon and former cabinet minister, has promised to form a provisional consensus government to lead Haiti until elections are held. He said he has already met with various unidentified actors as well as civil society and the private sector. He pledged to re-establish order and security and confidence in the government as well as fight corruption, make Covid vaccines available to all, restart the economy and create a credible and transparent elections system. *AP*

Japan, US, S Korea reaffirm global cooperation

TOKYO

THE United States, Japan and South Korea on Wednesday reaffirmed their commitment to work together on North Korea's denuclearisation and other regional threats but made no progress in bringing closer together the two US allies.

US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, who held talks in Tokyo with her counterparts, Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Takeo Mori and South Korea's Choi Jongkun, said their alliance remains a "lynchpin of peace, security and prosperity."

The officials reaffirmed the importance of respecting international law, including maintaining freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea, and opposed any unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the East China Sea and in the Taiwan Strait.

"When countries take actions that run counter to the United States' interests or that threaten our partners and allies, we will not let those challenges go unanswered," Sherman said.

The United States and Japan have raised concern about China pressing its claims to contested areas in the South China Sea and the Japanese-controlled Senkaku islands, which China also claims and calls Diaoyu.

"It is important for the international community to unite and raise its voice against (China's) unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force, and I hope for cooperation among the three countries," Mori said.

South Korea's Choi stayed away from the China issue at a joint news conference on Wednesday and stressed the importance of maintaining dialogue with North Korea.

Worsening relations between Washington and Beijing have raised worries in Seoul that it would become squeezed between its main security ally and biggest trading partner.

Choi repeatedly welcomed the significance of holding the trilateral talks and said he hoped hold them regularly for "close communication" among the three countries.

Japan and South Korea have been trying to improve ties since US President Joe Biden took office calling for stronger three-way cooperation in the face of the North Korean nuclear threats and challenges posed by China.

There has been little improvement.

Mori and Choi remained apart on issues dating back to Japan's colonization of the Korean Peninsula and atrocities committed before and during World War II, and only agreed to continue talks.

Mori urged South Korea to responsibly resolve issues related to compensation of wartime Korean laborers and sexual abuses of "comfort women" by Japanese soldiers to restore "healthy relations" between the two countries.

Choi repeated his country's position that the issues would not be solved unless Japan changes its position.

Earlier this week, President Moon Jae-in scrapped a plan to visit Tokyo for Friday's opening of the Olympics and meet with Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga. *AP*

It is important for the international community to unite and raise its voice against (China's) unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force
Takeo Mori, Japanese deputy foreign minister

EXPRESS READ

Trump inaugural panel head arrested

Los Angeles: Tom Barrack, 74, the chair of former President Donald Trump's 2017 inaugural committee was arrested on Tuesday on charges alleging he secretly conspired to influence US policy to benefit the United Arab Emirates, even while he was seeking a position as an American diplomat.

Weinstein to face further rape charges

Los Angeles: New York prison officials have handed convicted rapist Harvey Weinstein over to California to face additional sexual assault charges, ending the former movie mogul's lengthy fight to delay his extradition. Weinstein, 69, was booked into a downtown Los Angeles jail Tuesday afternoon, records showed.

$1 trillion The estimated worth of India's real estate market by 2030 driven by various reforms in the past 7 years, says housing and urban affairs secretary Durga Shanker Mishra

Respite for India as Delta variant hits oil

Crude prices dived up to $8 per barrel over the past week due to concerns that demand recovery likely to stay slow

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @Chennai

THE rapid rise in global infections caused by the Delta variant of the Covid-19 has likely offered Indian fuel consumers a small reprieve, since crude oil prices have dived as much as $8 per barrel over the past week. Brent crude was trading at as low as $68.6 per barrel on Wednesday, compared to $76.5 on July 13.

In India on Wednesday, auto fuels were being sold at ₹101.84 per litre of petrol and ₹89.87 for diesel in Delhi. In Chennai, they were being sold at ₹102.49 and ₹94.39 respectively. According to industry sources, if crude prices remain at sub-$70 rates for a while, it is likely that oil marketing companies will reduce retail prices moderately.

However, while the surge in such infections globally is giving rise to concerns that oil demand may recover slower than expected, analysts at Goldman Sachs note that other factors such as the slower increase in supplies by the OPEC+ oil cartel and lower US shale oil output will offset this impact.

The result-- while oil prices are now expected to remain lower than earlier predicted in the near-term, Brent crude is still expected to cross $80 per barrel by the end of this year.

In a research note, the surge in Delta cases has forced Goldman Sachs to revise its average oil price forecast for the July-September 2021 quarter down to $75 per barrel from the earlier $80 per barrel. But, it has also predicted that the October-December 2021 quarter will see average prices cross $80, compared to its earlier forecast of $75 for the period.

The note, written by analysts including Senior Commodity Strategist Damien Courvalin, says that the impact from surging Delta cases will be around 1 million barrels per day, but "for only a couple (of) months... and even less if vaccines prove effective at lowering hospitalisations in DMs (developing markets), the origin of most summer demand improvements". It added that this will be "more than offset by OPEC+'s slower production ramp-up".

The past weekend saw the oil cartel, which was riven by a rift between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), finally agree to a deal to further ease production cuts. Beginning August, its members will increase crude production by 400,000 barrels a day on a monthly basis. However, even post this increase, the International Energy Agency estimates a 1.5 million barrel per day oil supply shortfall during the second half of 2021.

BRENT EXPECTED TO CROSS $80/B BY YEAR-END On Wednesday, auto fuels were being sold at ₹101.84 per litre of petrol and ₹89.87 for diesel in Delhi. In Chennai, they were being sold at ₹102.49 and ₹94.39 respectively.

RBI allows IDFC to exit as promoter of IDFC First Bank

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

THE Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed IDFC Limited to exit as the promoter of IDFC First Bank as the five year lock-in period has ended, paving the way for a potential reverse merger between two entities.

"We would like to inform you that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, vide its letter dated July 20, 2021, clarified that after the expiry of lock-in period of 5 years, IDFC Limited can exit as the promoter of IDFC FIRST Bank Limited," IDFC First Bank said in a communication to stock exchanges. This five-year lock-in period ended on September 30, 2020.

Earlier this month, the banking regulator also allowed the holding companies of Equitas and Ujjivan Small Finance Banks to reverse merger with the bank. The holding company discount for Equitas Holding company stands at 28.5% and Ujjivan SFB stands at 33.1%, and for IDFC, it currently stands at 27.7%.

IDFC holds 36.56% in the bank. An official application would have to be submitted to RBI for its approval for a reverse merger, which analysts say could help unlock shareholder value, removing the holding company discount for IDFC Ltd shareholders. Besides, IDFC may also have to sell its mutual fund business IDFC AMC.

According to RBI rules, the shareholding of the non-operative financial holding company, which is the promoter of the bank, should be a minimum of 40% of the paid up voting equity capital of the bank, which will be locked in for a period of five years from the date of commencement of the business of the bank, and thereafter reduce it to 15% over ten years.

IDFC Bank was given licence by RBI along with Bandhan Bank in 2014 pursuant to the February 2013 universal bank licensing guidelines. These guidelines mandated IDFC to create a non-operative financial holding company (NOFHC) structure to house the bank and other financial services units of the parent company to ensure the banking business was completely ringfenced from other activities of the firm.

Holds 36.56% in the bank

An application needs to be submitted for RBI approval for a reverse merger, which could help unlock shareholder value, removing the holding company discount for IDFC Ltd shareholders

NEW RULE

RPs can hire professionals in insolvency cases

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

THE Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has amended its rule which allows better transparency and empowers resolution professionals (RPs) to hire the services of professionals to help with complex resolution processes.

The amendment has also made RPs responsible for finding out if a corporate debtor (CD) has been subject to preferential transactions, undervalued transactions, extortionate credit transactions, fraudulent or wrongful trading, and file applications in a time-bound manner with the adjudicating authority seeking appropriate relief.

"This not only claws back the value lost in such transactions increasing the possibility of reorganisation of the CD through a resolution plan, but also disincentivises such transactions preventing stress to the CD," Ministry of Corporate Affairs said in a statement issued on Wednesday.

In addition to that, insolvency professionals (IP) conducting corporate insolvency resolution process now have to disclose all former names and registered office address so changed in the two years preceding the commencement of insolvency along with the current name and registered office address of the CD, in all its communications and records.

As far as the appointment of professionals in the resolution process is concerned, the invoice for fee shall be raised in the name of the professional and be paid into his bank account.

The IBBI has specified the format of CIRP 8 through a circular issued on Tuesday. This Form needs to be filed in respect of every CIRP ongoing or commencing on or after July 14, 2021, the ministry says.

The ministry added that the amendment regulations would enhance the discipline, transparency, and accountability in corporate insolvency proceedings.

Earlier IBBI ruled that resolution professionals hired by lenders to rescue bankrupt companies cannot continue in that role if any of their colleagues represent any of the parties in that case.

Govt forms 3 panels to revive aviation industry

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

WEEKS after taking charge of civil aviation ministry, Jyotiraditya Scindia has formed three committees to advise him on industry related issues. The three advisory committees comprise of CEOs and promoters of airlines, airport operators and maintenance and repair organisations (MRO), cargo carriers, flight training organisations and ground handling companies.

Hit hard by Covid-19 pandemic, airlines in India continue to incur huge losses with no signs of a recovery in near future. According to rating agency ICRA, Indian airlines had seen net losses of ₹21,000 crore in FY21 and estimated a net loss of ₹12,700 crore for FY22, with the industry debt level increasing to around ₹50,000 crore in the ongoing fiscal.

There is also a strong opposition from some players on the Centre's decision to cap airfares and passenger capacity as air traffic has started showing improvement in recent weeks after the dreadful second Covid-19 wave. Additionally, the sector is grappled with high debts. As for the workforce, employees in this sector have seen widespread layoffs and salary cuts.

The newly appointed minister hopes to fix these issues and bring back the sector on a growth path. Scindia also faces the challenging task of completing the much delayed privatisation of national carrier Air India.

The committee for airlines includes names such as Rahul Bhatia of IndiGo, Ajay Singh of SpiceJet, Ness Wadia of Go Air, Sunil Bhaskaran, CEO of AirAsia India, Bhaskar Bhat, Chairman of Vistara and Raiv Bansal, Chairman and Managing Director of Air India.

This committee will advise the government on steps needed to improve domestic and international connectivity, matters related to leasing and financing of aircraft, aircraft and component manufacturing and other regulatory issues.

The committee on airports includes names such as GBS Raju, head of airports division at GMR group, Hari Marar, CEO of Bangalore International Airport, Jeet Adani- head of airports business at Adani group.

The group on MROs, cargo, ground handling and flight training will consist of senior government officials and industry officials.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

The three advisory committees comprise of CEOs and promoters of airlines, airport operators and maintenance and repair organisations (MRO), cargo carriers, flight training organisations and ground handling companies. Indian airlines had seen losses of ₹21,000 cr in FY21 and estimated a net loss of ₹12,700 cr for FY22.

Intel ties up with Airtel for 5G network roll-out

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @Chennai

GLOBAL chip manufacturing giant Intel Inc has locked down another major deal in the nascent Indian 5G segment, announcing on Wednesday that it has partnered with telecom service provider Bharti Airtel in developing a 5G network solution with both virtual (vRAN) and open (O-RAN) radio access network technology.

The announcement gains significance since Intel had announced a similar partnership with Airtel rival Reliance Jio just a few weeks ago. Intel's venture capital wing had even invested $250 million in Reliance Industries' (RIL) stake sales in Jio Platforms for a 0.39% stake.

According to the two companies, Airtel will deploy Intel's latest third generation Xeon Scalable processors, the Ethernet 800 series, and other gear across its telecom network in order to roll out wide-scale 5G, mobile edge computing, and network slicing. Both Airtel and Intel are members of the O-RAN alliance, which is pushing for increased inter-operability in telecom networks around the world.

These O-RAN networks will use Intel's FlexRAN network architecture solution, which features both software and hardware components, and will enable software-based radio base stations. Earlier in June this year, Intel had announced a similar partnership with Reliance Jio that it said would see it work on "co-innovations" in 5G networks with the Mukesh Ambani-owned telecom firm, primarily for its RAN systems.

Intel's shift into 5G network gear and other solutions seems to be a strategy to offset the loss of market share in its more traditional stomping grounds, such as the core data centre and personal computing markets. However, its networking chipset business has become a much more lucrative venture, with business in the segment growing as much as 20% in 2020, growing to account for $6 billion out of Intel's $78-billion overall sales revenue during the year.

Meanwhile, Airtel had, earlier this year, become the first Indian telco to demonstrate a live 5G solution in India at Hyderabad. It is also currently conducting 5G trials in major cities including Mumbai and Gurugram.

Byju's acquires US-based Epic for $500 million

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

EXPANDING its global reach, India's largest edtech firm Byju's has acquired US-based digital reading platform Epic for $500 million. The acquisition will help Byju's expand its US footprint by providing access to the more than two million teachers and 50 million kids (as claimed) in Epic's existing global user base.

Byju's has aggressive plans for international and US market expansion, and the acquisition with Epic will not only lead to significant investments in technology that will help to further personalised learning for students, but also enable Byju's to become a natural part of America's learning culture, the firm said in a statement.

Byju's which claims to have over 100 million students on its platform worldwide said it will invest $1 billion in North America in the next few years.

This is the second high profile acquisition for Byju's in the United States. In 2019, it had acquired maker of educational games Osmo for $120 million.

Having witnessed phenomenal run since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic as e-learning became the new norm, Byju's is on a buying spree. Earlier this year, it had acquired brick-and-mortar coaching network Aakash Institute for nearly $1 billion while last year it had taken control of WhiteHat Jr for $300 million and LabinApp for an undisclosed amount.

Backed by almost all the leading investors, it had raised as much $2.5 billion in recent times. The company was last valued at $16.5 billion, making it the 11th most valuable startup in the world.

Coming to Epic's acquisition, Suren Markosian, Epic CEO and co-founder Kevin Donahue, will remain in their roles. Byju Raveendran, Founder and CEO, Byju's said, "Our partnership with Epic will enable us to create engaging and interactive reading and learning experiences for children globally."

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

Current Price ₹382.20

Target Price ₹485

HINDALCO

Hindalco is our preferred non-ferrous pick owing to: a) robust volume recovery in both India and Novelis, b) strong profitability in its aluminium business, given its low-cost integrated operations in India and higher LME prices, c) solid FCF generation, which should reduce leverage sharply, and d) reasonable valuation.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *TNIE*

Ind-Ra downgrades IRB Infra to 'Negative'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

INDIA Ratings and Research has revised IRB Infrastructure Developers Limited's (IRB) outlook to Negative from stable while affirming its long-term issuer rating at IND A+, the company disclosed in an exchange filing.

The revision in outlook reflects India Rating's expectation of low execution by IRB in 2021-22 owing to delays in the receipt of appointed dates for projects awarded in 2020-21, the rating agency said.

The agency expects this low execution to lead to low cash-flow generation and hence increased borrowings to infuse equity in the awarded BoT and hybrid annuity model projects, which could keep debt at elevated levels. The negative outlook also reflects delays in the recovery of ₹3,310 crore from IRB Infrastructure Trust (IRBIT), IRB's private InvIT in partnership with GIC Affiliates, wherein IRB has 51% stake, and in the resolution on the Ahmedabad Vadodara project, leading to higher-than-expected leverage.

According to the rating agency, IRB already had a moderate revenue expectation in 2020-21, which was further worsened by the fact that the execution for ₹4,800 crore worth of orders that were awarded during the last financial year, is yet to commence, limiting the moving order book to ₹2,950 crore.

The rating agency further says that the company has reported significant cumulative cost overruns of 10%-15% in certain projects of its under-construction and completed projects, which have been transferred to the IRBIT.

Bajaj Finserv Q1 net drops 31% to ₹833 cr

PTI @New Delhi

BAJAJ Finserv Ltd on Wednesday reported an over 31% decline in consolidated net profit at ₹833 crore for the first quarter ended June 2021.

The company had reported a net profit of ₹1,215 crore in the same quarter of the preceding fiscal.

The consolidated total income also fell to ₹13,949 crore in Q1 FY22 as against ₹14,192 crore in Q1 FY21, Bajaj Finserv said in a regulatory filing.

The consolidated figures of Bajaj Finserv include results of its wholly-owned subsidiaries Bajaj Finance Ltd (BFL), Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd (BAGIC) and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Ltd (BALIC).

As per the break-up, Bajaj Finance witnessed 4.2% rise in consolidated net profit at ₹1,002 crore during the quarter. BAGIC reported 8.4% decline in net profit at ₹362 crore, while BALIC's net profit declined by 35.4% to ₹84 crore.

Bajaj Finserv said its loan losses and provisions for the quarter, including expected credit loss, was raised to ₹1,750 crore as against ₹1,686 crore in the year-ago period.

"BFL holds a management overlay and macro provision of ₹483 crore as of 30 June 2021," it added.

Most GST proceedings to follow own timeline

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

THE Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has clarified that most of the proceedings and compliances under the GST law would continue to follow the timeline prescribed by the statute despite blanket extension (in fulfilment of legal actions) given by the Supreme Court due to the pandemic.

It has said in a circular issued late Tuesday night that the extension granted by Supreme Court order applies only to quasi-judicial and judicial matters relating to petitions, applications, suits, appeals and all other proceedings, and therefore, the extension is not applicable to every action or proceeding under the GST Act.

The indirect tax regulator has said that proceedings like scrutiny of returns, issuance of summons, search, enquiry or investigations and even consequential arrest would continue to follow the timeline prescribed by the GST law or circulars issued by the department.

CBIC clarified that the Supreme Court judgement may not cover even those GST proceedings which are of quasi-judicial nature, like issuance of show cause notice, granting time for replies and passing orders.

The circular made it clear that the tax authorities can continue to hear and dispose off proceedings like disposal of application for refund, application for revocation of cancellation of registration, adjudication proceedings of demand notices, etc, where they are performing the functions as quasi-judicial authority. "Similarly, appeals which are filed and are pending, can continue to be heard and disposed off and the same will be governed by those extensions of time granted by the statutes or notifications, if any," says the circular.

However, wherever any appeal is required to be filed before joint or additional commissioner, commissioner, appellate authority for advance ruling, tribunal and various courts against any quasi-judicial order or where a proceeding for revision or rectification of any order is required, the time line would stand extended as per the Supreme Court's order.

CBIC issues fresh circular after SC's April 27 order

CBIC clarifies that the Supreme Court judgement may not cover even those GST proceedings which are of quasi-judicial nature, like issuance of show cause notice, granting time for replies and passing orders

EXPRESS READ

METRO Cash & Carry India opens its 29th store

New Delhi: METRO Cash & Carry India, the country's leading organised wholesaler, on Wednesday announced opening of a new store at Visakhapatnam, taking the total strore count to 29. The new store is the second METRO Wholesale in Andhra Pradesh after Vijaywada, which will help generate close to 500 direct and indirect employment opportunities, said a company statement. Spread over 50,000 sq.ft, the new store stocks a range of globally benchmarked quality assortment of over 7,500 products, it added.

TESTING GAMES 1 DAYS TO GO

WHO head: Covid-19 has not defeated Games

TOKYO 2020

The Tokyo Olympics should not be judged by the tally of Covid-19 cases that arise because eliminating risk is impossible, the head of the World Health Organisation told sports officials as events began in Japan on Wednesday. How infections are handled is what matters most, WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a speech to IOC.

Tough start for mixed pair, byes for men paddlers

AYANTAN CHOWDHURY @ New Delhi

THE draw for the table tennis events is out and India's mixed doubles pairing of A Sharath Kamal and Manika Batra will open their campaign with a tough match against third seeds Lin Yun-ju and Cheng I-Ching of Chinese Taipei on Saturday. It was expected the Indian pair would face one of the top doubles pairs early on in the competition and that is exactly what happened in the draw.

Coach Soumyadeep Roy, who is with the paddlers in Tokyo, refused to term the draw as unlucky. "We knew due to our ranking that we would have to face one of the big teams. We have beaten World No 5 pair in the past and so instead of regretting, we are looking forward to the challenge," he told this daily from Games Village.

A lot has been written about India's best shot at an Olympic medal in the sport in this section but Roy said there has not been any such talk in the camp. "Pressure is part of the game but the top seeds have much more riding on this match than us. We are confident and as soon as the draw was over, we started discussions about strategy and we will be watching videos of our opponent tonight and start our specific practice from tomorrow," the former paddler said.

Due to the mixed event starting early on July 24, both Sharath and Manika will skip the opening ceremony on Friday. G Sathiyan and Sutirtha Mukherjee will attend.

In Singles, both Sharath and G Sathiyan have received byes in the first round and will directly play in the second round. Sharath is likely to face Tiago Apolonia of Portugal in Round 2 and the winner might have to face the legend Ma Long next. Sathiyan will meet either of Brian Afanador or Lam Siu Hang and might come face-to-face with Japanese prodigy Tomokazu Harimoto in Round 3.

"I'm not thinking about Harimoto yet. Fully focussed on my opening match. Need to take things one match at a time and I've already spoken to my coach S Raman Sir and we are confident of doing our best," was Sathiyan's guarded response.

Manika is set to face-off against Great Britain's Ho Tin-Tin in Round one and if she wins, she will go up against Ukraine's Margaryta Pesotska in Round 2 followed by Sofia Polcanova of Austria in the third. Sutirtha Mukherjee will open her debut Olympic campaign against Sweden's Linda Bergstrom in the first round who is a chopper. Victory will see her take on Portugal's Yu Fu in the second round and the host's Mima Ito in the third round. "Sutirtha used to struggle against choppers but we have worked hard on that aspect. Manika has prepared well and we are hopeful she will win the opening rounds," Roy stated.

HOT DATES

With Olympics all set to begin on Friday, Express take a look at select events Indians will participate in. Here's the schedule with timings...

ARCHERY
July 23-30
Participants Deepika Kumari, Atanu Das, Tarundeep Rai, Pravin Jadhav
July 23: Men's, Women's Individual Qualification Rounds, from 5:30 AM
July 24: Mixed Team Eliminations, Medal Matches – Atanu Das, Deepika Kumari, from 6 AM

ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS
July 25-Aug 3
Participants Pranati Nayak

ATHLETICS
July 30-Aug 7
Participants: KT Irfan, Sandeep Kumar, Rahul Rohilla, Gurpreet Singh, Bhawna Jat, Priyanka Goswami, Avinash Sable, M Sreeshankar, MP Jabir, Neeraj Chopra, Shivpal Singh, Annu Rani, Tajinderpal Singh Toor, Dutee Chand, Kamalpreet Kaur, Seema Punia, 4x400 Mixed Relay, Men's 4x400m Relay
August 3: Men's Shot Put Qualification – Tajinder Singh Toor, from 3:45 PM
August 4: Men's Javelin Throw Qualification – Neeraj Chopra, Shivpal Singh, from 5:35 AM

BADMINTON
July 24 - Aug 2
Participants: PV Sindhu, B Sai Praneeth, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty
July 25: Women's Singles Group Stage – PV Sindhu vs Polikarpova Ksenia, from 6:40 AM

BOXING
July 23 -Aug 8
Participants: Vikas Krishan, Lovlina Borgohain, Ashish Kumar, Pooja Rani, Satish Kumar, Mary Kom, Amit Panghal, Manish Kaushik, Simranjit Kaur
July 23: Men's Welterweight Round of 32 – Vikas Krishan, from 7:30 am
July 25: Women's Flyweight Round of 32 – Mary Kom, from 7:30 AM
July 25: Men's Lightweight Round of 32 – Manish Kaushik, from 7:30 AM
July 26: Men's Flyweight Round of 32 – Amit Panghal, from 7:30 AM

EQUESTRIAN
July 30
Participant: Fouaad Mirza

FENCING
July 26
Participant: Bhavani Devi

GOLF
July 29-Aug 7
Participants Anirban Lahiri, Udayan Mane and Aditi Ashok

HOCKEY
July 24-Aug 6
Participants Indian men's and women's team
July 24: Men's Pool A – India vs New Zealand, 6:30 AM
July 24: Women's Pool A – India vs Netherlands, 4:15 PM

JUDO
July 24-25
Participant: Sushila Devi Likmabam

ROWING
July 24
Participants: Arjun Lal, Arvind Singh

SHOOTING
July 24-Aug 2
Participants: Anjum I, Apurvi, Divyansh, Deepak Kumar, Tejaswini, Sanjeev Rajput, Aishwarya, Manu, Yashaswini, Saurabh Chaudhary, Abhishek Verma, Rahi, Elavenil, Angad Bajwa, Mairaj Khan
July 24: Men's 10m Air Pistol Qualification – Saurabh Chaudhary, Abhishek Verma, from 9:30 AM
July 25: Women's 10m Air Pistol Qualification – Manu Bhaker, Yashaswini Singh Deswal, from 5:30 AM
July 25: Men's 10m Air Rifle Qualification – Deepak Kumar, Divyansh Singh Panwar, from 9:30 AM
July 26: 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team Qualification – Saurabh/Manu, Abhishek / Yashaswini, from 5:30 AM
July 26: 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team Qualification – Divyansh/Elavenil, Deepak / Anjum, from 9:45 AM
July 29: Women's 25m Pistol Qualification Precision – Manu, Rahi Sarnobat, from 5:30 AM
July 30: Women's 25m Pistol Qualification Rapid – Manu, Rahi, from 5:30 AM

SWIMMING
July 25-July 29
Participants: Srihari Nataraj, Maana Patel and Sajan Prakash

TABLE TENNIS
July 24-30
Participants: Sharath Kamal, Manika Batra, G Sathiyan and Sutirtha Mukherjee

TENNIS
July 24 to Aug 1
Participants: Sania Mirza, Ankita Raina

WEIGHTLIFTING
July 24
Participant: Mirabai Chanu -- Women's 49kg Group B, from 6:20 AM

WRESTLING
Aug 3-7
Participants: Seema Bisla, Vinesh Phogat, Anshu Malik, Sonam Malik, Ravi Kumar Dahiya, Bajrang Punia, Deepak Punia
August 4: Men's Freestyle 57kg Round of 16 and Quarter-Finals – Ravi Dahiya, from 8 AM
August 4: Men's Freestyle 86kg Round of 16 and QF – Deepak, from 8 AM
August 5: Women's Freestyle 53kg Round of 16 and Quarter-Finals – Vinesh, from 8 AM
August 6: Men's Freestyle 65kg Rd of 16 and QF – Bajrang Punia, from 8 AM

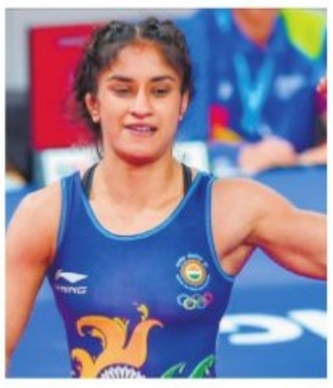
'Fighter' Vinesh will win medal at Olympics: Sakshi

VIVEK KRISHNAN @Chennai

WHEN Sakshi Malik won a historic bronze at the carnival in Rio de Janeiro five years ago – becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to claim an Olympic medal – she had lifted the pall of gloom that engulfed India's wrestling contingent after a largely disappointing campaign. There was the controversy of Narsingh Yadav returning home for doping just before the event while Vinesh Phogat limped out of her quarterfinal clash due to a knee injury. The inability to carry on had left Vinesh in tears, a sight that Sakshi was witness to.

Vinesh now returns as a near certainty to win a medal in the 53 kg category, considering her top-ranked status in her field. She is also in a rich vein of form with three gold medals in as many competitions this year. If Vinesh can end up on the podium, Sakshi will be incredibly pleased even if she is not there in Tokyo herself.

"Vinesh is extremely strong. She will win a medal without doubt this time and can win in 2024 too if she continues in this vein. There is no need to give her any tips. She has won gold in a lot of competitions that she has played over the last year. Her time has come now. She has been waiting for this moment for five years. And she has been working towards this for many years," Sakshi said during a virtual media interaction on Tuesday.



WATCH THE OLYMPIC GAMES LIVE ON SONY SIX, SONY TEN 2

While Vinesh is a strong contender, Sakshi believes there will be more medals coming India's way. She has predicted a total of four medals in wrestling – Bajrang Punia (65kg) and Ravi Dahiya (57kg) are also certainties according to the 28-year-old while 19-year-old Anshu Malik may spring a surprise. "It is our strongest wrestling contingent ever. I am definitely expecting four medals. I would say Bajrang, Ravi and Vinesh are certainties to win medals. And Anshu could spring a surprise," she said.

For that to happen, the key will be to not get overawed by the aura of the Olympic stage. Most of India's wrestlers have been doing consistently well in world and continental events. It is easier said than done of course, but Sakshi hopes that they are able to overcome whatever apprehensions there might be. "I would tell the wrestlers not to fear. In Rio, I was not at all scared even for one of the matches. My confidence just kept increasing as I started doing well. I would tell them all to overcome their fear and give their best," was Sakshi's tip to the grapplers.

Even as Sakshi will have to be content with watching the athletes go about their business in Tokyo, her own ambitions still burn bright. "In an athlete's life, there are ups and downs. We cannot perform like machines. The matches I have lost have been due to slip-ups in the last 5-10 seconds. That is the thing I am working on. I will ensure I work on these things to do better in the future."

BURNING BRIGHT
Torchbearer Sana Tamaki (L) transfers the Olympic flame to Shiori Masuda (R) at the torch kiss in central Tokyo on Wednesday | AFP

Dreams shattered: Four athletes out of Games due to Covid

AFP @ Tokyo

FOUR competitors including a shooting world number one saw their Tokyo Olympic dreams dashed on Wednesday after testing positive for the coronavirus.

British shooter Amber Hill, top-ranked in the women's skeet, was forced to pull out before she departed for Japan after testing positive. "After five years of training and preparation, I'm absolutely devastated," she said.

Table tennis player Pavel Sirucek became the third member of the Czech delegation to test positive for Covid-19 in the Athletes' Village, the team said. Chilean taekwondo competitor Fernanda Aguirre was "devastated and very sad", she said on social media, after testing positive on arrival in Japan from a training camp in Uzbekistan.

"(She) is asymptomatic and in good health, but unfortunately will not be able to compete because the Japanese authorities impose a 10-day quarantine," a Chilean Olympic committee statement said.

The 21-year-old, who won a bronze medal at the 2019 Pan American Games, has been moved to an isolation facility, as has her coach.

Amber Hill

Meanwhile Dutch skateboarder Candy Jacobs described herself as "heartbroken" after she too was forced out. Jacobs said on Instagram she had "done everything in my power to prevent this scenario and took all the precautions".

"Unfortunately I was tested positive for Covid-19 this morning, which means my Olympic journey ends here," the 31-year-old said.

Sirucek was the just latest member of the Czech contingent to test positive, after beach volleyball player Ondrej Perusic and beach volleyball coach Simon Nausch, an Austrian native.

TOKYO TRAIL

COVID CASES AT OLYMPIC VILLAGE 6

6 Polish swimmers sent back for error

Six Polish swimmers have had to return from Japan even before the start of the Olympics after the Polish Swimming Federation sent too many athletes because of an administrative error. The swimmers returned to Poland on Sunday, threatening legal action and calling for the head of the PZP to resign over the incident. The swimming team numbered 23 people.

30 athletes from GB at opening ceremony

Only 30 of the 376 British athletes at the Olympics will participate in the Games opening ceremony here on Friday owing to Covid-19 concerns, media reports have stated. "Great Britain's athletes will stay away from the opening ceremony of the Olympics in Tokyo on Friday amid concerns about catching Covid-19," 'The Times' reported. Britain are due to name their flag-bearers for the ceremony on Thursday.

Australian equestrian banned over doping

The Australian Olympic Committee said show jumper Jamie Kermond has been removed from the equestrian team for the Tokyo Games after testing positive for cocaine. Equestrian Australia had earlier said Kermond returned a positive A-sample for a metabolite of cocaine following a test conducted by Sport Integrity Australia on June 26.It said Kermond was banned from competing at the Tokyo Olympics but had the right to have his B-sample analyzed.

No stopping Tokyo's drinkers, go outdoor

On the eve of the Tokyo Olympics' opening ceremony, the government's attempts to curb a coronavirus surge by targeting drinkers is drowning in liquor, frustration and indifference. Japan has asked the city's restaurants and bars to close by 8 PM, if not entirely, to keep people from socializing in close contact with strangers and spreading the virus, but the state of emergency hasn't deterred many. Instead, drinkers moved outdoors, and many bars in Tokyo's famed nightlife districts are bustling with defiant customers.

Opening ceremony: Leaders to assemble

Leaders from around 15 countries are expected to attend Friday's opening ceremony of the Covid-hit Tokyo Olympics. World leaders who have already promised their attendance in the opening ceremony are French President Emmanuel Macron, Mongolian Prime Minister Luvsannamsrai Oyun-Erdene and US first lady Jill Biden among others. But the rising cases of coronavirus in Japan has forced many leaders to cancel their visits for the sport's showpiece event.

EXPRESS READ

England name Robinson for Tests against India

LONDON: Pacer Ollie Robinson has returned to England's 17-member squad for the first Test against India, starting in Nottingham on Aug 4. Robinson had missed the second Test against New Zealand after being suspended by ECB in the wake of racist tweets from a few years ago that had emerged his debut.

Arsenal cancel US trip after Covid cases

LONDON: Arsenal pulled out of the Florida Cup and cancelled its pre-season trip to the US after members of its travelling party tested positive for Covid-19, the club said Wednesday. The Premier League team had been scheduled to depart Thursday and play against Inter Milan.

Umesh stakes claim with 3 wkts in tour game

DURHAM: Opener Haseeb Hameed justified his call-up to the England squad for the first Test against India by stroking a century for County Select XI on the second day of the warm-up game against India in Durham. In response to India's total of 311, County Select XI were bundled out for 220 at the end of Day 2. Umesh Yadav was the pick of the Indian bowlers with three wickets for 22 runs.
Brief scores: Indians 311. County Select XI 220 in 82.3 ovs (H Hameed 112; Umesh 3/22).

BIRTHDAY GIFT

Sandesh shows ACL injury is not the end with top award

MARTIN JOSEPH @ Kochi

AN anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury can be a career-threatening setback or a death knell for any footballer. In many cases, players are not able to perform at the same level after an ACL injury. However, Indian footballer Sandesh Jhingan is an example of how one can overcome such a setback and return even stronger.

The 28-year-old was declared the All India Football Federation's Footballer of the Year for the 2020-21 season after what was a stellar campaign for both club and country. The ATK Mohun Bagan centre-back had suffered the dreaded injury during a practice game back in 2019 and he was out for an entire season.

However, the India international re-discovered his form at Bagan as he was instrumental to Antonio Habas' team who reached the ISL final. Being declared the player of the year on what was his birthday, Jhingan feels he didn't look at his injury as a setback and instead chose to bounce back stronger.

"It feels like a dream. It's great that I'm going to win the award on my birthday, it was going to be the best birthday gift I could imagine. So I'm really happy," said Jhingan during a media interaction on Wednesday.

"What happened to me with that injury is nothing. There are people who don't know where they are going to get their next meal from and kids sleeping on the road. There are people who have their family members in hospitals fighting for their lives. So whatever happened to me it was nothing," he added.

Besides helping Bagan reach the ISL final, Jhingan also played a crucial role in helping India get a place in the qualifiers for the 2023 Asian Cup. India finished third in their group in the FIFA World Cup qualifiers and Jhingan was instrumental for the team at the back.

The towering defender felt that India could have done better but admitted that it was time to look ahead. "The mentality of the squad is that even if we had topped the group, we would feel that we could have done better. Of course we wanted to do more. We could have done better and we should have done better. I'm the first one who will raise my hand and say we did not play to our potential," he said, while adding that now the focus was on the Asian Cup qualifiers.

Meanwhile, Bala Devi was adjudged the women's Football of the Year and Suresh Singh won the emerging Player of the Year.

Pegasus spyware can be covertly installed on your phone by exploiting vulnerabilities in apps and tools, thus using your own phone to spy on you. It has turned into a global focal point as a tool that undermines democratic rights of individuals. Here is an explainer on what the spyware is all about

SPYWARE THAT USES YOUR OWN PHONE TO SPY ON YOU

WHAT IS PEGASUS SPYWARE?

- Pegasus is a spyware that can be installed on mobile phones without the user even getting to know about it
- It can target Apple iOS and Android devices, and is even able to infect the latest iOS versions, including the iOS 14.6
- The spyware can use your phone camera, and even copy/send messages

WHAT CAN THE SPYWARE DO?

- It can monitor all communications from your phone, including emails, text messages, and even the web searches you have done
- It can help track the user through location identification and can track your calls too
- Your phone will be used to spy on you, because the phone's camera and microphone are used for surveillance

HOW DOES THE SPYWARE INFECT iPHONES?

- It impersonates applications downloaded on an iPhone
- Then it is transmitted through push notifications using the Apple servers
- The spyware can infect your phone by exploiting the photo app, the Apple Music app, or a zero-click iMessage
- iMessage is an Apple Inc-developed instant messaging service launched in 2011 to work on Apple platforms like iPadOS, macOS, iOS and watchOS

WHO DEVELOPED PEGASUS?

- Israeli firm NSO group
- The company is also known as Q Cyber Technologies. The use of Pegasus had been justified by the developers for targetting terrorist organisations and criminals, but it has also found favour among authoritarian leaders to spy on opponents as well as journalists
- Human rights group Amnesty International helped reveal this month that the spyware was being exploited for misuse to target political opponents, critiques and journalists in violation of democratic principles

HOW CAN YOU KNOW YOUR PHONE HAS MALWARE?

- It runs slower than usual
- Noticeable performance drop
- You notice apps crashing while using them

WHAT CAN DETECT PEGASUS?

- A tool called Mobile Verification Toolkit (MVT) can detect Pegasus. It can help you know if Pegasus has installed itself on your phone
- The advantage is that this tool can work on iOS and Android devices, but due to more pronounced forensic traces it is easier to do so on the former than the latter

WHO DEVELOPED IT?

- Israel's NSO Group developed it in 2016. It first came out into the open in 2018 when a phone of a human rights activist in Israel was the target of an infection attempt
- Its popularity grew due to data on its capabilities in maintaining surveillance in a covert manner targeting individuals and organisations
- In August 2020, NSO Group reportedly sold the spyware to United Arab Emirates to help it maintain surveillance on anti-regime elements and not-so-friendly nations

Pernicious Pegasus

The powerful spyware can sneak into your phone in at least two easy ways. Unlike in the past — when a non-tech-savvy generation could be nudged to click on malicious links — Pegasus infections can now be achieved through "zero-click" attacks, requiring no user interaction whatsoever. These zero-dick security breaches can occur via mail apps, p2p device protocols, WhatsApp, or even the graphics library — a simple unanswered WhatsApp call can place the Pegasus code on your device. These attacks often rely on another deeper vulnerability known as "zero-day", which are the loopholes in an mobile OS that a phone manufacturer doesn't know about

A study published last week by US scientists at the Desert Research Institute found that coronavirus infection rates increased disproportionately during the country's wildfire season in 2020.

1.16L kids orphaned in India amid Covid

DATA

WASHINGTON: More than 1.5 million children in 21 countries, including 1,19,000 from India, lost their primary and secondary caregivers to COVID-19 during the first 14 months of the pandemic, according to a study in *The Lancet*.

The modelling study funded in part by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), stated that 25,500 children in India lost their mother to Covid-19 while 90,751 lost their father and 12 lost both their parents.

The study estimates that 1,134,000 children lost a parent or custodial grandparent due to Covid-19. Of these, 10,42,000 children lost their mother, father or both. Most lost one, not both parents.

Overall, 1,562,000 children are estimated to have experienced the death of at least one parent or a custodial or other co-residing grandparent (or other older relative), the NIH said in a media release.

The countries with the highest number of children who lost primary caregivers (parents or custodial grandparents) include South Africa, Peru, United States, India, Brazil, and Mexico, it said.

The countries with rates of Covid-associated deaths among primary caregivers (>1/1000 children) include Peru, South Africa, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Iran, United States, Argentina, and Russia, it added.

"Though the trauma a child experiences after the loss of a parent or caregiver can be devastating, there are evidence-based interventions that can prevent further adverse consequences, such as substance use, and we must ensure that children have access to these interventions," said NIDA Director Nora D Volkow.

According to the report, 2,898 Indian children lost either of their custodial grandparents while nine lost both of their custodial grandparents.

However, the 0.5 rate of loss of primary and custodial parents per 1,000 children in India is much less than other countries like South Africa (6.4), Peru (14.1), Brazil (3.5), Colombia (3.4), Mexico (5.1), Russia (2.0), and the US (1.8).

"We found that, with the exception of South Africa, deaths were greater in men than women in every country, particularly in middle-aged and older parents," the report on *The Lancet* journal's website said.

FACT OF THE MATTER

Virus cases up 12% last week

DATA

The WHO says there were more than 3.4 million new global cases of the coronavirus last week, a 12% increase from the previous week. The UN health agency says the number of deaths is continuing to decline, with about 57,000 in the last week. "At this rate, it is expected that the cumulative number of cases reported globally could exceed 200 million in the next three weeks," WHO says. It notes the highest increases in were in the Western Pacific and European regions. In the past week, WHO says the highest coronavirus infections were in Indonesia, Britain, Brazil, India and the US. WHO has urged countries to commit to vaccinating at least 40% of their populations.

China official mixes 3 doses

MEDICINE

While scientists across the globe are debating on the need for a third booster jab against Covid-19 and whether the shots can be mixed, China's top disease control official said he has taken three different shots against the infectious disease, the media reported. "I was among the first to have a domestically developed Covid-19 vaccine when I got the shot in May last year," the *South China Morning Post* quoted Gao Fu, head of the Chinese CDC, as saying to the *Global People* magazine. "I have now had three shots that used different technology and were from different manufacturers and I haven't felt any discomfort," Fu added.

Big drop in US life expectancy

HEALTH

US life expectancy fell by a year and a half in 2020, the largest one-year decline since World War II, public health officials said Wednesday. The decrease for both Blacks and Hispanics was even worse: three years. The drop spelled out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is due mainly to the Covid-19 pandemic, which health officials said is responsible for close to 74% of the overall life expectancy decline. Over 3.3 million Americans died last year, far more than any other year in US history, with Covid-19 accounting for about 11% of those deaths. The abrupt fall is "basically catastrophic," said Mark Hayward, a University of Texas sociology professor.

S Africa firm to produce Pfizer shots

HEALTH

FRANKFURT: Covid-19 vaccine makers BioNTech and Pfizer on Wednesday said that they had found a South African partner to produce their jab locally, the first such deal on the African continent.

The move comes amid growing criticism of vaccine inequality that has seen poor countries fall behind richer ones in protecting people from the virus.

Under the agreement, Cape Town-based Biovac will complete the last step in the manufacturing process of the vaccine, the companies said in a statement.

The project will take time to get off the ground however, with the first African-finished vaccines not expected before 2022.

Once up and running, Biovac is set to churn out more than 100 million doses annually that will be distributed to the 55 countries in the African Union.

"This is a critical step forward in strengthening sustainable access to a vaccine in the fight against this tragic, worldwide pandemic," said Biovac chief executive officer Morena Makhoana.

Studies have shown that th vaccine is highly effective against Covid-19, including the newer variants.

The "technical transfer, on-site development and equipment installation activities will begin immediately," the statement added.

The Covax scheme, backed by the WHO and heavily relied on by the African countries, has delivered far fewer doses than expected so far.

SAFE AND SNUG

A Common Loon chick hitches a ride on its mother's back while her mate looks for food on Maranacook Lake in Maine, US | AP

Data shows disproportionate impact on Blacks of US' 50-yr war on drugs

HEALTH

FIFTY years ago, then US president Richard Nixon declared a war on drugs. Today, with the US mired in a opioid epidemic that did not abate during the coronavirus pandemic's worst days, it is questionable whether anyone won the war.

Yet the loser is clear: Black and Latino Americans, their families and their communities. A key weapon was the imposition of mandatory minimums in prison sentencing. Decades later those harsh federal and state penalties led to an increase in the prison industrial complex that saw millions of people, primarily of colour, locked up.

An *Associated Press* review of federal and state incarceration data shows that, between 1975 and 2019, the US prison population jumped from 240,593 to 1.43 million Americans. Among them, about 1 in 5 people were incarcerated with a drug offense listed as their most serious crime.

The racial disparities reveal the war's uneven toll. Following the passage of stiffer penalties for crack cocaine and other drugs, the Black incarceration rate in America exploded from about 600 per 100,000 people in 1970 to 1,808 in 2000. In the same timespan, the rate for the Latino population grew from 208 per 100,000 people to 615, while the white incarceration rate grew from 103 per 100,000 people to 242.

Provisional data from the CDC shows overdose deaths from illicit drug use continued to rise amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The availability of drugs such as fentanyl, heroin and cocaine remained high or plateaued last year.

Many elected officials and activists say that in order to begin to unwind or undo the war on drugs, all narcotics must be decriminalised or legalised, with science-based regulation.

> **Growing up in St. Louis, the War on Drugs disappeared Black people, not drug use. Over the course of two years, I lost 40 to 50 friends to incarceration or death because of the War on Drugs. We became so accustomed to loss and trauma that it was our norma**
>
> Cori Bush, Congresswoman from St. Louis, told the *Associated Press*

Liverpool no longer a heritage site

LONDON: The UN's cultural agency UNESCO on Wednesday voted narrowly to remove Liverpool's waterfront from its list of world heritage sites, citing concerns about overdevelopment including plans for a new football stadium. At committee talks chaired by China, 13 delegates voted in favour of the proposal and five against -- just one more than the two-thirds majority required to delete a site from the global list.

CULTURAL CHANGES

In a first, women stand guard in Mecca during Haj

WORSHIP

DOZENS of women soldiers are guarding worshippers in the annual Haj pilgrimmage in Mecca and Medina, the birth places of Islam, in a first for Saudi Arabia. Mona, one of the soldiers, told *Reuters* that she was inspired by her late father's career. "I am following the steps of my late father to complete his journey, standing here at the Grand mosque in Mecca, the holiest place. To serve the worshippers is a very noble and honourable task," she told the news agency, while declining to give a last name. The soldiers, dressed in military khakis and black berets, patrol the Grand Mosque in Mecca.

Samar, recently deployed for security of pilgrims, stands alert in front of the Kaaba | AP

Once drawing some 2.5 million Muslims from across the globe to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, the pilgrimage has been dramatically scaled back due to the virus. This year's Haj has been limited to 60,000 vaccinated Saudi citizens or residents of Saudi Arabia. On Tuesday, pilgrims wearing masks and maintaining social distancing performed the symbolic stoning of the devil in the valley area of Mina — using sterilized pebbles they received ahead of time.

Another image-altering move by Saudi Arabia's de-facto leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was to allow women of all ages to make the pilgrimage without a male relative, known as a "mehrem", on the condition that they go in a group. Since his rise to power, women have been allowed to drive and to travel abroad without a male guardian.

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THURSDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Registering a play

William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* was entered by printer James Roberts on the Stationers' Register on this day in 1598

PLOT

The Merchant of Venice is a 16th-century play in which a merchant in Venice named Antonio defaults on a large loan provided by a Jewish moneylender, Shylock

THE RULES

Only members of the Stationer's Company were permitted to publish material for sale: any member wishing to print a book had to enter its title in advance in the Register

PUBLISHED IN PAMPHLETS

The first quarto of the play appeared in 1600 followed by the second in 1619 and the third quarto in 1637. The play appeared in five editions before 1642

Salaga to release on Varmahalakshmi

PG 4

COV-EID CELEBRATIONS

Fun, food and laughter marked Eid ul-Adha, also known as Bakrid, on Wednesday. Left to right: Uzma Irfan, director, Prestige Group bonds with daughter Alayna Zaid; Mansoor Ali Khan, member, board of management, Delhi Public Group of Schools greets family– wife, Tasbia Khan, and children, Aayan and Arhaan Khan; *Banaras* actor Zaid Khan relishes some kheer, along with his sister Zahara Khan

'The Bathing Tale' under the shower

Singer and artist, Vasu Dixit has composed a 30-second song named *The Bathing Tale*. He breaks down the adventures we face every day during our 10-minute shower. The song consisted of some highly relatable lyrics which made fans say "hilarious". Need a mid-day work laughter break? Check out Dixit's reel on Instagram!

Possessive- how much?

While getting ready for a shoot, Rashmika Mandana's pet Aura looked extremely possessive when the make-up artist came close to Manadana. This adorable moment was captured and posted on Mandana's Instagram account with the caption, "This is how much Aura hates anyone coming near me..". Co-stars and fans couldn't resist flooding the comments sections with hearts and love.

South Asian Symphony Foundation marks three years of its establishment through a blend of South Asian musical concert

TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES

SANATH PRASAD

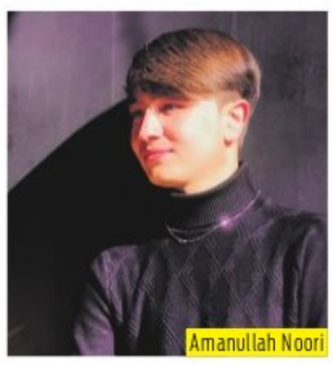
TO mark the third anniversary of the South Asian Symphony Foundation (SASF), music artistes from the South Asian region came together to weave a musical fusion in a virtual concert titled 'Gitanjali' on Tuesday. The Bengaluru-based non-profit organisation was established in 2018 with a mission to unite the South Asian region with music.

According to Nirupama Rao, co-founder of SASF, the foundation focuses on promoting cultural synergy among the South Asian people, through the medium of music and the creation of the South Asian Symphony Orchestra (SASO).

"Our region of South Asia is one of the least integrated regions of the world because of political differences, problems left over from history, and the basic lack of good physical connectivity, and low levels of trade and economic cooperation," says Rao, who also served as India's foreign secretary from 2009 to 2011.

The foundation also aims to stretch the world of South Asia beyond just India and Pakistan and unite the artistic talents from other South Asian countries, including Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. The digital concert on Tuesday saw artistes like Amanullah Noori from Afghanistan, Sudhakar Wasti from Nepal, Soundarie David Rodrigo from Sri Lanka and Dilshad Billimoria Posnock, Rohan Ramanan, Vijay Venkatesh, Anusha Madapura among others, from India. Each of them performed different musical tracks spreading the message of positivity, peace, and togetherness.

Dilshad Billimoria Posnock



Amanullah Noori

Rohan Ramanan

"Music is a universal language, a medium through which we can communicate at the human level without letting our differences come in the way. The creation of the South Asian Symphony Orchestra has helped to bring musicians together from various countries, they have broken bread together, made friendships, and above all performed together as equals in the orchestra," says Rao who also mentions that the theme for 'Gitanjali' was just to express the "Spirit of South Asia".

Anusha Madapur, a 17-year-old Bengaluru-based violinist, who also performed *Maa Tujhe Salaam* for 'Gitanjali', believes that music represents the cultural and nationalistic roots of an artiste. "While we were all playing for a united cause, everybody's individual identity, nationality, and all those little unique nuances came out through their music, which is what the SASO is all about – bringing out yourself and your country through music," says Madapur who has been playing the violin for the past 13 years.

Amanullah Noori, a 16-year-old violinist from Afghanistan, who performed an Afghan folk song at 'Gitanjali', says, "I want to preach love and unity with my music. The times we are living in make me worried. However, I will continue to focus on working with music and spread positivity among the people of my country," says Noori, who also performed in a musical concert at Bengaluru in 2019.

The creation of the South Asian Symphony Orchestra has helped bring musicians together from various countries. They have broken bread together, made friendships, and above all performed together as equals in the orchestra

Nirupama Rao, co-founder, SASF and retired diplomat

While we were all playing for a united cause, everybody's individual identity, nationality, and all those little unique nuances came out through their music, which is what the SASO is all about – bringing out yourself and your country through music

Anusha Madapur, violinist

CITY READ

New collection on display

Forevermark has introduced the Forevermark Icon Collection that celebrates its 'icon' motif. With 62 pieces, the collection comprises hooped earrings, chic cufflinks, rings, pendants, and bangles. Modern and intricate, the collection can be worn every day. "We wanted to honour the legacy of our icon motif, but to elevate it, incorporating our beautiful diamonds into modern, exquisite, and intricate jewellery pieces, that is a personal expression of style and can be worn every day," says Sachin Jain, managing director, De Beers, India. The collection is available at Forevermark retailers.

City student's start-up receives global response

Bengaluru's Greenwood High student, **Shloka Ashok**, has proven that age is no barrier to creativity and entrepreneurship. She set up a start-up, 'InternMee', with an aim to connect high school students with internships, volunteering, and extra-curricular opportunities with organisations from different domains free of cost. 'InternMee' which is already six months old, records 30,000 website sign-ups from students from 75 countries worldwide. The start-up has also partnered with over 300 companies, and has catered to over 20,000 applications so far.

'We are united in this battle'

(The writer is Consul-General of Japan in Bengaluru)

THE Tokyo Olympic Games 2020 will be held from July 23 to August 8, 2021, followed by the Tokyo Paralympic Games from August 24 to September 5, 2021. The Tokyo Games were scheduled to be held in 2020, but due to the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was postponed for a year. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 virus has produced mutations that are even more infectious, and the outbreak has spread once again in countries and regions which, at first glance, seemed to have conquered the virus.

Japan has been making efforts to prevent the spread of the virus by declaring a state of emergency in some areas, including the Tokyo metropolitan area, early this year. Preventing the spread of the virus remains a major challenge when it comes to organising large-scale sporting events such as the Olympic and Paralympic Games. In July 2020, the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) general assembly decided on the schedule of events and their venues, with the opening ceremony of the Games to be held on July 23, 2021. Since then, those involved in the Games have been working relentlessly, taking into account all safety measures as per the World Health Organisation's (WHO) guidelines.

To prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus, in March this year, the IOC, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the organising committees of the Games, and the Japanese authorities decided to bar spectators from abroad from entering the country. Later in June, they decided to allow only 10,000 spectators at the venue - well within 50 per cent capacity. However, with the surge of Covid-19 cases in Tokyo, the Japanese authorities declared a state of emergency in the area from July 12 to August 22, 2021. This will inevitably coincide with the duration of the Tokyo Games. Subsequently, the organisers and the Japanese authorities decided not to house spectators for the games held in Tokyo and the three adjacent prefectures, which consist of the Tokyo Metropolitan Area.

Meanwhile, they released the third edition of the 'Playbook on Infection Control for the Tokyo Games', for the safety of the participants and the Japanese citizens. It may not be exactly the same image of the Olympic and Paralympic Games for those who were looking forward to visiting Japan to see the Games in person or those who bought hard-to-obtain tickets to witness what is possibly a once-in-a-lifetime moment. Nevertheless, it remains true that 4 billion people will watch the games on television worldwide because the Olympic and Paralympic Games are an opportunity for the world's top athletes to come together and demonstrate the "power of sports" to the world. At a time when the world is gripped with the challenge of battling the Covid-19 virus, I would like the world to witness this message from Japan: that we are united in this battle and that, these difficult times can be overcome through the efforts and wisdom of humanity as a whole.

The G20 leaders, including India, have expressed their support for Japan's determination. In order to accomplish this feat, we will take all possible measures to prevent the spread of the virus and facilitate a safe and secure event in Tokyo. I look forward to seeing the world's top athletes, including those from India, competing at their best.

KNOW YOUR CITY

Arun Prasad, city-based history researcher, unravels interesting facts about Bengaluru in this weekly quiz series. So it's time for you to find out how familiar you are with the city, beyond its heritage buildings, IT parks and the pub culture.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Know Your City Quiz'**

Correct answers and names of first three respondents with right answers will be featured in CE on Thursday.

THE RIGHT ANSWERS ARE

1. D Devaraj Urs; 2. Sri Ramayana Darshanam; 3. 2011

FIRST THREE TO GET IT RIGHT

1. Srikantan
2. K Sankar
3. V P Prathap

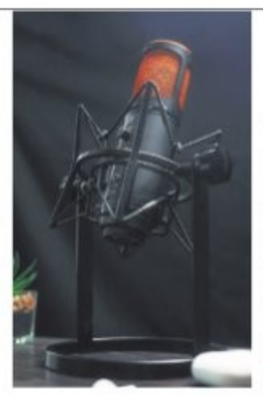
WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

TELL A STORY

For those who love the art of storytelling, here's a workshop dedicated to stories. Pick a story and storytelling class will help you shape and structure them, accordingly. You'll also get to learn the basic principles of storytelling and performance. **When:** July 24 **Details:** insider.in

PILATE CLASSES

Join celebrity fitness trainer and pilates guru Radhika Karle as she trains you in understanding the fundamentals of pilates. She will also be guiding about different diets, types of pilates, and how one can start their own fitness studio and much more. **When:** July 24 to July 31 **Details:** bookmyshow.com



VOICEOVER WORKSHOP

Learn about what goes into voicing, dubbing, and voiceovers by registering for this workshop. You will also learn some techniques to make your voice effective, emphatic and to practise voice modulation and projection. **When:** July 25 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

Workshop On Social Media

Sign-up for this workshop to expand your business' presence on social media. The workshop aims to focus on introducing the basics of getting started on social media, marketing and using social media tools, measuring your reach, and much more. **When:** July 24 **Details:** insider.in

ENROLL YOUR CHILD FOR ONLINE THEME-BASED YOGA AND MEDITATION WORKSHOP WHEN: JULY 23- 30 REGISTER: BOOKMYSHOW.COM

Bakri-id Combo

Farmstruck is offering a Bakri-id combo to celebrate Eid al-Adha. From biryani cuts to curry cuts get the meat home delivered. Prices starting from ₹777. Also avail discounts on select cuts. **Details:** Farmstruck website

Get Creative

Register for the cartoon workshop conducted by renowned cartoonist Ajit Narayan in association with One Page Spotlight. Narayan will help you learn how to build a strong power of observation and draw comic heads, letterings, strips along figures and body parts. **When:** July 22- 31 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

Gardening meets Storytelling

Sign-up for a unique workshop where storytelling and the practical knowledge of gardening come together. The workshop includes two simple DIY gardening projects through storytelling techniques. **When:** July 31 **Details:** insider.in

Musical Mindfulness

The workshop will help you relax and achieve peace with music. The workshop will use sound waves and vibration as a powerful healing technique to instill calmness and help you get rid of stress. **When:** July 30 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

Drama Workshop

This workshop is for youngsters who want to make a cut in drama and acting. Register your kids with Raell Padamsee's Ace Young Actors Club where the workshop will help your children to enhance imagination, confidence, personality, and communication skills. It will also have activities such as theatre games, debates, script writing, and creating. **When:** August 3, 2021 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

BAINGAN KA BHARTA

INGREDIENTS

- **Eggplant:** 1, large
- **Onions:** 1/2 cup, finely chopped
- **Tomatoes:** 1 cup, finely chopped
- **Garlic:** 1 tsp, finely chopped
- **Green chillies:** 1/2 tsp
- **Red chili powder:** 1/4 tsp
- **Oil:** 2 tbsp
- **Coriander leaves:** 1 tbsp, chopped
- **Salt** as required

METHOD

- Cut the eggplant on four sides and roast on direct flame.
- Keep turning it every 2-3 minutes, to cook evenly. When done, immerse it in a bowl of water. Make cuts on the roasted eggplant with a knife. Place a hot charcoal on the same plate. Add a few drops of oil. When smoke releases, cover for a minute. Peel the charred skin. Chop finely or mash it.
- In a kadai, heat oil. Add onions and garlic, and saute till translucent. Add green chillies and tomatoes. Mix well. Add red chili powder, salt and eggplant. Mix thoroughly.
- Cook for five minutes on low heat. **—Deepti Sagar, Delhi**

SOUND BOARD

THE GRATITUDE DIARIES

Relying on both amusing personal experiences and extensive research, host Janice Kaplan explores how gratitude can transform every aspect of life including marriage and friendship, money and ambition, and health and well-being.

- On Spotify

THE KITCHEN IS ON FIRE

Food writer James Ramsden and musician Sam Herlihy dish up a weekly offering of food-related nonsense, exploring the complex and often confusing world of modern gastronomy.

- On Apple Podcasts

THE KEVIN ROSE SHOW

Join entrepreneur, technology investor, and self-experimenter Kevin Rose as he interviews technologists, scientists, meditators, self-experimenters, and productivity hackers to discover insights that you can incorporate into daily life.

- On Apple Podcasts

GHOST MAPS: TRUE SOUTHEAST ASIAN HORROR STORIES

Ghost Maps follows a mysterious narrator as he chronicles the supernatural in Singapore and around Southeast Asia. Inspired by stories generously shared by real people.

- On Spotify

THE BIOLOGY OF SUPERHEROES

Scientists are brought in as guests to review superheroes from movies or comic books based on the science behind what may have inspired every hero's power and abilities.

- On Apple Podcasts

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

VAJRAKAYA

The plot of the film revolves around Viraj, an orphan adopted at a very young age. Later, he discovers that he is not an orphan as his mother and grandfather are still alive. With an urge to meet his mother, Viraj starts his journey to find her, who is subjugated by her father. The film is directed by Harsha.

- Cast: Shiva Rajkumar, Nabha Natesh, Karunya Ram, Shubra Aiyappa

NINNINDALE

The film is a romantic comedy-drama directed by Jayanth C. Paranjee. Vicky, an adventurous and cheerful guy, whole lives in New York comes across Pramila who is new in the city. She soon becomes a part of Vicky's squad. Friendship turns into love from her side. However, Vicky refuses her proposal.
The story processes with Vicky finding a perfect groom for her.

- Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Erica Fernandes, Thilak Shekar, Vinayak Joshi, Sonia Deepti

AMBAREESHA

A labourer stands against a strong real estate mafia in Bengaluru when a social activist is murdered in the city. He fights against the strong forces alone even though they do everything to suppress his voice. This action film is directed by K. Mahesh Sukhadhare.

- Cast: Ambareesh, Darshan, Priyamani, Rachita Ram, Kelly Dorji

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 WHAT WE LEARN BEFORE WE ARE BORN BY ANNIE MURPHY PAUL

Pop quiz: When does learning begin? Answer: Before we are born. Science writer Annie Murphy Paul talks through new research that shows how much we learn in the womb — from the lilt of our native language to our soon-to-be-favourite foods.

2 ON BEING A WOMAN AND A DIPLOMAT BY MADELEINE ALBRIGHT

Former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright talks bluntly about politics and diplomacy, making the case that women's issues deserve a place at the centre of foreign policy. Far from being a "soft" issue, she says, women's issues are often the very hardest ones, dealing directly with life and death.

3 AN INVITATION TO MEN WHO WANT A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN BY ELIZABETH NYAMAYARO

How to enlist everyone, men and women, as allies for change? Meet Elizabeth Nyamayaro, head of UN Women's HeForShe initiative, which has created more than 2.4 billion social media conversations about a more equal world.

4 3 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF ABOUT EVERYTHING YOU DO BY STACEY ABRAMS

How you respond to setbacks is what defines your character, says Stacey Abrams, the first Black woman in the history of the United States to be nominated by a major party for governor. In an electrifying talk, she shares the lessons she learned from her campaign for governor of Georgia — and some advice on how to change the world.

5 HOW TO BREAK BAD MANAGEMENT HABITS BEFORE THEY REACH THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS BY ELIZABETH LYLE

Leadership expert Elizabeth Lyle offers a new approach to breaking the rules while you're on your way up, sharing creative ways organisations can give middle managers the coaching to start leading differently.

FIT BIT

SUPTA PARIVARTANASANA

(SUPINE SPINAL TWIST POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'supta' means recline, 'parivarta' means turning and 'asana' means pose. This gives a great twist to the spine and the abdomen and hence also referred to as Abdominal Twist Pose. This pose is recommended for proving mobility. Pose variations can help students grow and build further confidence in their yoga practice no matter what their starting ability levels are. It activates Swadisthana (Sacral) Chakra and Muladhara (Roota) Chakras. According to Ayurveda, it balances Pitta and Kapha Doshas. This pose improves a person's abdominal organ functioning.

STEPS

- Lie down on your back like a corpse. Stay in that position for 4-5 breaths.
- Inhale and bend your left leg. Place the foot on the ground. Exhale and put your left thigh over your right thigh.
- Stretch your arms out at shoulder level and turn towards your left side while exhaling completely.
- Place your left knee and left foot on the ground; right leg slightly extended.
- With your left arm extended, gaze towards your left side. Make sure your shoulders are on the floor.
- Stay in this position for 4 to 6 breaths. In each exhalation, twist your left hip deeper and stretch your left arm deeper outwards. While you twist make sure your neck is towards your left side.
- In this state, you feel stretch in your left gluteus, left side of your abdomen as well as your lower back.
- Repeat this twist on the other side.
- You need regular practice to hold this pose for long.

BENEFITS

- Detoxifies inner organs.
- Increases the function of various glands and their secretion.
- Improves spinal alignment, reduces spinal ailments that cause back pain, and improves flexibility.
- Gives strength to sacral joints.
- Helps maintain body balance.
- Relieves constipation.
- Can help cope with insomnia. Try to practise it before going to bed.
- Regulates blood circulation.
- Rejuvenates and re-energises the body, relieves stress and fatigue.

LIMITATIONS

- People having injury in the lower back close to the sacrum and hips or knee, avoid this.
- Pregnant women should use some support while performing it. Ensure that the foetus does not get pressed too much.

—by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

MALIK (Malayalam)

A young man rises to prominence through his unswerving fight against political and police corruption in his village.

Cast: Fahadh Faasil, Nimisha Sajayan, Dileesh Pothan, Meenakshi Raveendran

- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

RAANJHANAA (Hindi)

When Kundan finds that his childhood love, Zoya, likes someone from her community, he decides to forget about her. However, when he realises she is lying about her fiance's religion, he goes berserk.

Cast: Dhanush, Sonam Kapoor, Abhay Deol, Swara Bhaskar, Zeeshan Mohammed

- Watch on: Zee 5

TOOFAN (Hindi)

An inspiring story of an orphan from the streets of Dongri, who grows up to become a local goon and how his life changes after he meets a young and compassionate girl who guides him on the right path and makes him realise his true calling — boxing

Cast: Farhan Akhtar, Mrunal Thakur, Paresh Rawal, Darshan Kumaar

- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

VAAZHL (Tamil)

Vaazhl is a film about inner search, through travel and journey to discover your true self.

Cast: Aahrav, Pradeep Anthony, TJ Bhanu

- Watch on: Sony LIV

PADAIVEERAN (Tamil)

Muneeshwaran decides to become a police officer after seeing the perks the job offers. However, he is caught in a dilemma when he is tasked with dealing with communal riots in his village.

Cast: Vijay Yesudas, Amritha Iyer, Akhil, Bharathiraja

- Watch on: Zee 5

IKKAT (Kannada)

A warring couple is on the verge of divorce. However, the pandemic and the lockdown force them to stay together and put their plan for separation on the backburner.

Cast: Nagabhushan, Bhoomika Shetty

- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

NARAPPA (Telugu)

Set in the 80s, Narappa's family is caught in the middle of a conflict with the obdurate landlord Panduswami who desires to capture the lands of the poor

Cast: Venkatesh, Priyamani

- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

FOREIGN

TOM & JERRY (English)

A legendary rivalry reemerges when Jerry moves into New York City's finest hotel on the eve of the wedding of the century, forcing the desperate event planner to hire Tom to get rid of him. As mayhem ensues, the escalating cat-and-mouse battle soon threatens to destroy her career, the wedding, and possibly the hotel itself.

Cast: Chloe Grace Moretz, Pallavi Sharda, Colin Jost, Michael Pena

- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

MOULIN ROUGE (English)

Christian, an English writer, travels to Paris to join the Bohemian revolution. He visits the city's biggest night club, Moulin Rouge, and falls in love with its star performer and courtesan, Satine.

Cast: Nicole Kidaman, Ewan McGregor, Jim Broadbent, John Leguizamo

- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

A PERFECT FIT (Indonesian)

Sparks fly when a fashion blogger in Bali meets a gifted shoemaker, leading her to question her commitment to her fiancé.

Cast: Nadya Arina, Refal Hady

- Watch on: Netflix

ROAD TO PERDITION (English)

An assassin is on the run after his son witnesses a murder committed by his boss. He is torn between being loyal to his boss and saving his own child.

Cast: Tom Hanks, Paul Newman, Jude Law, Tyler Hoechlin

- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

SUBSCRIPTION

Netflix: ₹ 199 per month
Disney+Hotstar: ₹ 399 per month
Prime Video: ₹ 129 per month
Zee 5: ₹ 99 per month

Caring for your child during monsoon

The downside to this season is that it brings with it, several communicable illnesses, including dengue, typhoid, and a host of other issues

DR SHALINI CHICO

THE monsoon season brings with it a refreshing break from the scorching heat, invigorating both young and old, with children running in the rain, splashing in puddles, making paper boats, and the whole family enjoying piping hot snacks and tea while relishing the scent of the first showers. The only downside to this season is that it brings with it, several communicable illnesses; be it a) mosquito borne like dengue, chikungunya, malaria, b) food and waterborne illnesses like typhoid and hepatitis A, c) airborne like influenza and other viral respiratory infections, and not to forget the threat of Covid-19 still looming large. Here are a few ways in which one can safely enjoy this season with their children.

1 Food and water: Ensure that your drinking water is safe, as far as possible use boiled water, especially for infants below one year. Avoid eating uncooked food like chutneys or salads, and fresh juices /water from outside. Wash fruits and vegetables well before consumption.

2 Hand and personal hygiene: Wash your hands and feet well after having stepped out, whether it is just a short walk to the neighbourhood grocery store or playing in the rain in your own compound. Nails to be kept trimmed and clean at all times.

3 Vaccination: Ensure that your child has had their yearly booster of influenza vaccination, which is preferably given during the pre-monsoon/ monsoon season. Influenza (also called the seasonal flu) and Covid-19 can have a similar presentation with fever, sore throat or cough, making it difficult to differentiate. Hence, it is strongly advised to make sure that children above the age of six months are vaccinated annually with the influenza vaccine . Co-infection with Covid-19 and influenza can present with more severe illness. Until the time that Covid vaccination is rolled out for children in India, the next best option would be to get the flu shot for your child. Breastfeeding mothers are strongly urged to get vaccinated with the Covid vaccine as well, so that the infant gets their immunity from the breastmilk.

4 Mosquitoes: They tend to breed especially this season. Keep them at bay by using a natural mosquito repellant, keep doors and windows appropriately meshed. Avoid keeping empty pots or other areas around the house where rain water can stagnate and act as a breeding ground for mosquito larvae.

5 Clothing: Ensure that your baby is well covered with ironed and dry cotton clothing, and head protected from the cold . However, avoid excessively warm clothes; excessive sweat and damp clothes can cause fungal infections. Avoid staying wet after having played in the rain, ensure your child has a warm bath and is adequately dried.

6 Fix those leaks: Moisture which accumulates from leaky walls and roofs, can cause mold formation and can predispose to a flare up of allergies and asthma.

As the threat of the third wave of Covid looms large, let us not forget the basic principles of using masks, washing hands regularly, avoiding crowds and public spaces. Let not the relaxation of lockdowns allow us to let down our guard.

(The writer is senior consultant neonatologist and paediatrician, Fortis La Femme Hospital, Richmond Road)

Consumption of low vegetable protein and excessive intake of refined sugar increases the risk of gallstones

Beware!

Gall bladder issues now affecting millennials

DR K HEMANTH KUMAR

THERE is a significant geographical variation in the prevalence of gallstone disease around the globe. It was predominantly a disorder seen in developed countries, however, there is a rising trend in the number of people suffering from this condition in India too, in the recent past. Further, the trend is also shifting from obese people towards young people in their early twenties. A majority of people are ignorant about the nature of gallstone disease and its impact on their health, though it is a common problem and can be cured if treatment is taken at appropriate time. Some present in advanced stages with complications requiring emergency surgery and some cases might result in death.

Increase in prevalence of gallstone disease

Consumption of low vegetable protein and excessive intake of refined sugar increases the risk of gallstones. An unhealthy lifestyle, high saturated fats in the diet, and high waist-hip ratio are significant risk predictors for gallstone disease. Metabolic syndrome, insulin resistance, diabetes, and rapid weight loss due to prolonged fasting are other risk factors for developing gallstones.

Myths around gallstones

Myth: There are several complications in gallstone surgery.
Fact: Like any other surgery, gallstone surgery may have some complications. However, with the advancement in surgical procedures, the risk of complication is low.
Myth: Shockwave therapy may help in removing gallstones.
Fact: Treatment of gallstones with shockwave therapy has several complications. It also has a high rate of recurrence. Thus, this technique is rare.
Myth: All gallstone requires treatment.
Fact: Not all gallstones require immediate treatment. If the patients do not experience symptoms, the doctor may monitor the progression of this disease.

When does the patient need gallstone surgery?

There are various cases in which a doctor recommends gallstone surgery (cholecystectomy). The conditions include gallstones in the gallbladder, gallbladder inflammation, pancreas inflammation due to gallstones, large gallbladder polyps, and gallstones in the bile duct.

Complications

If the doctor had advised the patient to undergo gall bladder removal surgery, the patient should opt for it as soon as possible. Progression of gallstone disease may result in several complications. Some of them include gall bladder inflammation, bile duct infection, jaundice, acute pancreatitis, gallstone ileus, and gall bladder cancer.

Treatment options

There are both invasive and non-invasive methods. Shock wave lithotripsy (rarely used), oral therapy (to dissolve gallstones), and endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (removing the stone from the bile duct) are non-invasive methods. The invasive methods include cholecystectomy that involves removal of the gall bladder. The type of surgery depends upon the extent of damage to the gall bladder. The doctor performs open cholecystectomy surgery in case of severely inflamed, scarred, or infected gall bladder. In other cases, the doctors may opt for laparoscopic (keyhole) or robotic cholecystectomy.

(The writer is consultant -surgical gastroenterology, Manipal Hospitals, Old Airport Road)

NUGGETS

Heart-related test may indicate death risk in Covid patients

Testing people for heart-related issues may help to identify patients hospitalised with Covid-19 who face an especially high risk of dying, suggests a study. Although Covid-19 primarily affects the respiratory tract, it also leads to cardiovascular complications including severe arrhythmias, and pulmonary embolism. A team of researchers from the University of Salerno in Italy, examined 1,401 patients with Covid-19 who were admitted. About 226 (16.1 per cent) underwent transthoracic echocardiography within 48 hours of admission. In-hospital death occurred in 68 patients (30.1 per cent). Low left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) and acute respiratory distress syndrome were independently associated with in-hospital mortality. **-IANS**

How our immune system may help prevent miscarriage

US researchers have discovered a class of immune cells which affects pregnancies. Researchers at University of California-San Francisco found that the recently discovered subset of cells known as extrathymic Aire-expressing cells in the immune system may prevent the mother's immune system from attacking the placenta and foetus. The researchers showed that pregnant mice who did not have this subset of cells were twice as likely to miscarry, and pregnancies foetal growth was severely restricted. "When you're pregnant, the immune system is seeing the placenta for the first time in decades -- not since the mother made a placenta when she herself was a foetus," said Eva Gillis-Buck, from UCSF. **-IANS**

GET RID OF THAT PAIN IN THE BACK

The key is to exercise and protect your spine's health

SHWETAMBARI SHETTY

MOST people do not workout or do not restart on their fitness journey due to back issues. The truth is back pain starts due to a weak core, sitting long hours, or not working on strengthening the muscles that protect the spine. Our bodies have been designed to hinge and there are people who are scared to get into that position as it might worsen the pain. This is due to lack of spine hygiene. When is the spine loaded? The answer is, almost always, especially the lumbar region. If you are sitting long hours, driving long distances, lifting weights, walking or playing a sport, to name a few, your lower spine ends up taking a lot of load-supporting activities demanded by general life and sport. And because the spine is doing so much work, it goes through the general process of wear and tear resulting in never-ending pain.

How can you prevent it? The key is to exercise, and often! There are exercises that can help create a protective sheath around your spine if done regularly and can do wonders for your spine health. Here are a bunch of them. Give it a try and do it regularly and notice the change in your spine.

DEADBUG
(4-5 reps on each side * 20-30 sec. hold on each rep)

- Lie down on your back, arms on the side
- Flex your knees and bring them to 90 degrees
- Stiffen the ab muscles, try to build contact between the lumbar spine and the floor
- Extend one leg and the opposite arm at the same time, hold and alternate with the other side for prescribed rep count

BIRD DOG
(4-5 reps on each side * 20-30 sec. hold on each rep)

- Get down on all 4's (knees on the ground)
- Stiffen the ab region and outstretch the opposite arm and leg reaching away from the body
- Hold for 10 seconds, bring the elbow closer the knee and outstretch again

SIDE PLANK
(30sec per side)

- Lie down on one side supported by the elbow, hip and outer leg
- Press the hips up off the ground
- Hold and switch after 30 seconds

WALK

Our lumbar spine takes all the load while we are seated and due to the work profile we end up spending a lot of time in that position. It's generally a good practice to walk 3 minutes for every 30 minutes of being seated. If you can discipline yourself to do that, it will help in giving recovery time to the spine and have positive effects on metabolic factors aiding more fat loss.

HIP HINGES

- Bend at the hips (without rounding the spine)
- Soften your knee by bending it slightly
- Keep your torso slightly above parallel to the floor and a hip joint angle closer to 90 degrees
- Maintain a neutral spine (natural curvature maintained)

If this is practised consistently, it can potentially prevent lower back injuries and pain. Mostly back pain does not happen due to one bad lift or so, it's a result of years of bad posture while sitting or lifting anything off the ground no matter how heavy or light.

However, if you are already facing lower back pain, I strongly suggest you meet a doctor for a detailed examination and solutions on how to cope with it.

SOULFUL

OF ATTACHMENT AND DETACHMENT

I REALISE that love cannot exist when there is jealousy; love cannot exist when there is attachment. Now, is it possible for me to be free of jealousy and attachment? I realise that I do not love. That is a fact. I am not going to deceive myself; I am not going to pretend to my wife that I love her. I do not know what love is. But I do know that I am jealous and I do know that I am terribly attached to her and that in attachment there is fear, there is jealousy, anxiety; there is a sense of dependence. I do not like to depend but I depend because I am lonely; I am shoved around in the office, in the factory and I come home and I want to feel comfort and companionship, to escape from myself. Now I ask myself: how am I to be free of this attachment? I am taking that just as an example.

At first, I want to run away from the question. I do not know how it is going to end up with my wife. When I am really detached from her my relationship to her may change. She might be attached to me and I might not be attached to her or to any other woman. But I am going to investigate. So I will not run away from what I imagine might be the consequence of being totally free of all attachment. I do not know what love is, but I see very clearly, definitely, without any doubt, that attachment to my wife means jealousy, possession, fear, anxiety and I want freedom from all that. So I begin to enquire; I look for a method and I get caught in a system. Some guru says: "I will help you to be detached, do this and this; practise this and this." I accept what he says because I see the importance of being free and he promises me that if I do what he says I will have reward. But I see that way that I am looking for reward. I see how silly I am; wanting to be free and getting attached to a reward.

I do not want to be attached and yet I find myself getting attached to the idea that somebody, or some book, or some method, will reward me with freedom from attachment. So, the reward becomes an attachment. So I say: "Look what I have done; be careful, do not get caught in that trap." Whether it is a woman, a method, or an idea, it is still attachment. I am very watchful now for I have learned something; that is, not to exchange attachment for something else that is still attachment.

-Jiddu Krishnamurti

LEAD ACTOR, DUNIYA VIJAY'S DIRECTORIAL DEBUT IS ALL SET TO HIT THEATRES ON AUGUST 20

CEF EATURES

WITH the latest lockdown relaxation measures allowing the reopening of cinema halls, with a 50 per cent occupancy, the race begins for long-pending films to finally hit the screens. The latest to join this lineup is Duniya Vijay's *Salaga,* which is scheduled to hit theatres on August 20, on the occasion of Varamahalakshmi. An informal announcement of the same was made by the production house.

Salaga was initially set for an April 15 release, but the second wave of the pandemic laid rest to those plans. The film, which marks the directorial debut of actor Duniya Vijay, has already created a lot of buzz. *Salaga,* based on the underworld, is bankrolled by KP Sreekanth and has Sanjana Anand as the female lead. The film's music has been composed by Charan Raj.

Apart from Dhananjay in the role of a cop, *Salaga* also stars Nagabhushana, BV Bhaskar, Achyuth Kumar, and Rangayana Raghu in prominent roles.

PRIYANKA KUMAR CHARGED TO BEGIN SHOOTING FOR SURI'S *BAD MANNERS*

The model-turned-actor is paired opposite Abishek Ambareesh in her Kannada debut

A SHARADHAA

PRIYANKA Kumar, a successful model who started walking the ramp at the age of 16, is now looking forward to beginning her acting career. *Bad Manners,* Suri's upcoming film with Abishek Ambareesh, will mark her debut in tinseltown. With the makers planning to resume shooting on Abishek's sophomore film in August, Priyanka is raring to begin shooting for her portions.

"Just after one day of shooting, the second lockdown was in place, and I was unable to start with the full-fledged work for *Bad Manners.* I am now all charged up," says the young actor. Talking about how she landed her first acting role, Priyanka says, "Having bagged Suri's film was more a shock than a surprise. I couldn't believe that I was the choice. Getting to work with a director like Suri is the best thing to have happened to me. The rehearsals we had boosted my confidence, and I am waiting to put to test all that I learnt," tells Priyanka.

Priyanka shares information about the directing style of Suri, and says, "It is a little difficult to understand the director's next move. He doesn't reveal much about the character and film, and everything is developed on the spot. Spontaneity is such a key factor under his direction."

Meanwhile, the actor is also in discussion for some other projects, but would prefer confirming it once she signs on the dotted line. "Apart from reading scripts, it is yoga and drawing that has kept me occupied," signs off Priyanka

> **Getting to work with a director like Suri is the best thing to have happened to me. The rehearsals we had boosted my confidence, and I am waiting to put to test all that I learn**
>
> Priyanka Kumar, actor

SALMAN KHAN STARTS PREPPING FOR *TIGER 3*

CE FEATURES

SALMAN Khan has started prepping for *Tiger 3,* the third installment in the Tiger franchise. On Tuesday night, the actor posted a video of his workout session on Instagram. Though we don't see him clearly, his hulking muscles stand out in the video. "I think this guy is training for *Tiger3* . . @beingstrongglobal," Salman wrote.

Tiger 3 will reunite Salman with Katrina Kaif. The first installment, *Ek Tha Tiger,* directed by Kabir Khan, was released in 2012. The second, *Tiger Zinda Hai,* was released in 2017 and directed by Ali Abbas Zafar.

Salman will also be seen in *Kick 2, Antim: The Final Truth* and *Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali.*

Pandemic romance

A SHARADHAA

IKKAT, the latest OTT offering from Kannada cinema, is set during the first lockdown period , and takes us through the life and times of Vasu (Nagabhushana) and Janavi (Bhoomi Shetty). The married couple, who are on the verge of finalising their divorce, are forced to stay together a bit longer due to the sudden announcement of the 21-day lockdown. We then see how this forced union, peppered with random appearances from uninvited guests, changes the lives of this unassuming middle-class couple.

Presented by Pawan Kumar Studios and directed by debutants Esham and Haseen Khan, *Ikkat,* has the sensitive issue of divorce at its core, and also handles the pandemic-related events in the film. The directors, who have also written the story, and taken up editing responsibilities, have brought out a relatable subject. It is particularly interesting how they have dissected the story into six episodes, and showcased the life of an average middle-class family. Although the execution is a bit amateurish, their vision is applaudable, and full points for having a light-hearted vein throughout its runtime. Full points to Nagabhushana and Bhoomi for delivering natural performances that shoulders the entire film. It is impressive how both these debut actors understood the crux of the characters to give us a convincing portrayal. However, the same can't be said about actors Veena Sundar and RJ Vikky who go a bit overboard.

RATING 2.5/5

On the technical side, the work by cinematographer Lavith, unfortunately, isn't upto the mark. Composer Doss Mode gives us a couple of good tracks though, especially the ones about the pandemic, and families. Basically, *Ikkat* isn't a bad film, but it is neither a good film, and falls somewhere in between as a strictly time pass film.

Cast: Nagabhushana, Bhoomi Shetty, Veena Sundar, RJ Vikky | **Director:** Eshan and Haseen Khan | **Streaming on:** Amazon Prime

'Heartland India is still obsessive and dramatic'

Taapsee Pannu, Vikrant Massey and Harshvardhan Rane dissect their characters and scenes from the recently-released *Haseen Dillruba*

SHILAJIT MITRA

TAAPSEE Pannu is no stranger to dark, convoluted thrillers. As she herself puts it, the genre works best when fused with other formats. In *Badla,* for instance, the fun emerged from her talky interview session with Amitabh Bachchan. *Game Over* found her homebound developer plunged into deep psychological chaos. More recently, the heart has replaced the head in *Haseen Dillruba* (on Netflix). Directed by Vinil Mathew, the film crosses a love story with a small-town investigative thriller. Reviewing it for this space, I was wholly disappointed by the murder mystery stuff. It just didn't click. Still, there are character details and scenes worth looking into.

"When I am hearing a script, I instantly say a yes or no," Taapsee says. "I make it a point never to go back and analyse. If it's gripped me enough for the narration, if it's kept me on the hook, then I am sold." As it happens, what grips her often are well-pitched thrillers. "But I make sure I don't do more than one thriller a year," adds Taapsee, who recently started shooting for her maiden production Blurr. "I don't want my audience to get bored of watching me in a similar genre. In Haseen Dillruba, I had the help of the love story to dilute the thriller bit."

Since release, both Taapsee and screenwriter Kanika Dhillon have reacted defensively to the negative reviews of the film. Kanika in an interview even questioned the education qualification of certain critics (she later said her rub is against 'trolling in the garb of reviews').

In our conversation, which happened pre-release, Taapsee stood by her writer and the script. "Whenever it's Kanika writing a story about human relationships, it's been intense. It is not shallow. Especially because she brings so many unseen layers in a female character that we haven't explored. And she also starts looking at men with a female gaze, which gives them a new dimension."

This is partly reflected in Vikrant Massey's character, Rishu. A shy, sunken engineer in 'Jwalapur', he marries Rani Kashyap (Taapsee). Terribly mismatched, their marriage hits a roadblock, and Rani begins an affair with his distant cousin Neel (Harshvardhan Rane). Rishu's frustration is underlined throughout, revealing toxic layers to his subdued nature.

"I've worked with a lot of women writers and directors," says Vikrant of A Death in the Gunj, Chhapaak and Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare. "In this case, Kanika's point-of-view towards toxic masculinity or 'the supposed definition' of masculinity reflects at the core with Rishu. Unfortunately, men are supposed to be a certain way just as women are expected to be a certain way. I personally believe that patriarchy is primarily responsible for this deep-rooted thing within us. We have categorized and bracketed genders so much that it's really going to take a while to have a fresh perspective towards it."

On the other end of the trio, Harshvardhan has fun as Rishu's well-built foil. Turns out, the actor is as crazy about adventure sports as his character in the film. "I used to go for rafting some 10-12 years ago," Harsh shares. "I also love the outdoors and have a go with the flow attitude. A lot of my friends have been messaging me since the film released. They've picked on the parallels between me and Neel."

Both male actors collide decisively in a scene. After Rishu finds out about the affair, he pays a visit to Neel. Sneaking up from behind, he attacks him with a screwdriver, but is instead dusted up by the hulking jock. The scene, Vikrant reveals, was meant to unsettle, hence the decision to have children around in the park. There is also a funny physical contrast at play: Neel, though the bigger guy in the fight, keeps addressing his brother as 'Rishu Bhaiya.' "I enjoyed the contrast because I am overpowering him but also being respectful," Harsh recalls. "Before the shoot, I asked Vinil what was our childhood like, what did I grow up calling him. The credit goes to Vinil for crafting this scene so well."

Equally effective (at least visually) is the film's use of interior space. Shot in Haridwar, Rishu's house offers a lavish view of the Ganges. It's also perfect for the different set pieces, from Rani tripping down the stairs to the budding romance on the balcony. "Every small town house has a story," Harsh says, while Taapsee gushes over the heartland setting. "So many times when I go back to Delhi, I get so emotional just by looking at certain lanes," she says. "In cities we have become more diplomatic and mellowed down. But the heartland is still very obsessive and dramatic."

Frank Grillo to headline action film Hounds of War

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Frank Grillo will play the lead role in the upcoming action film *Hounds of War.* The project, which is backed by Dean Devlin's Electric Entertainment, will be directed by Lowell Dean from a script by Jean Pierre Magro.

The film will follow a group of mercenaries who take on extremely challenging jobs. After a mission goes wrong due to a shocking betrayal, only one of them is left alive to avenge his friends' death.

In addition to starring in the project, Grillo will also serve as executive producer alongside Nika Finch and Polina Pushkareva. The actor is best known for films such as *Warrior, Captain America: The Winter Soldier* and *The Purge: Anarchy.*